

Pam  
Near East

Levant

E. Riggs 1889

Turkish Emp

106 52

James F. Riggs

THE

Madison

New Jersey

# F A M I N E

IN

## ASIA-MINOR

ITS HISTORY, COMPILED FROM THE PAGES OF THE

« LEVANT HERALD »

WITH A PREFACE BY THE EDITOR.

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CONSTANTINOPLE

—  
1875







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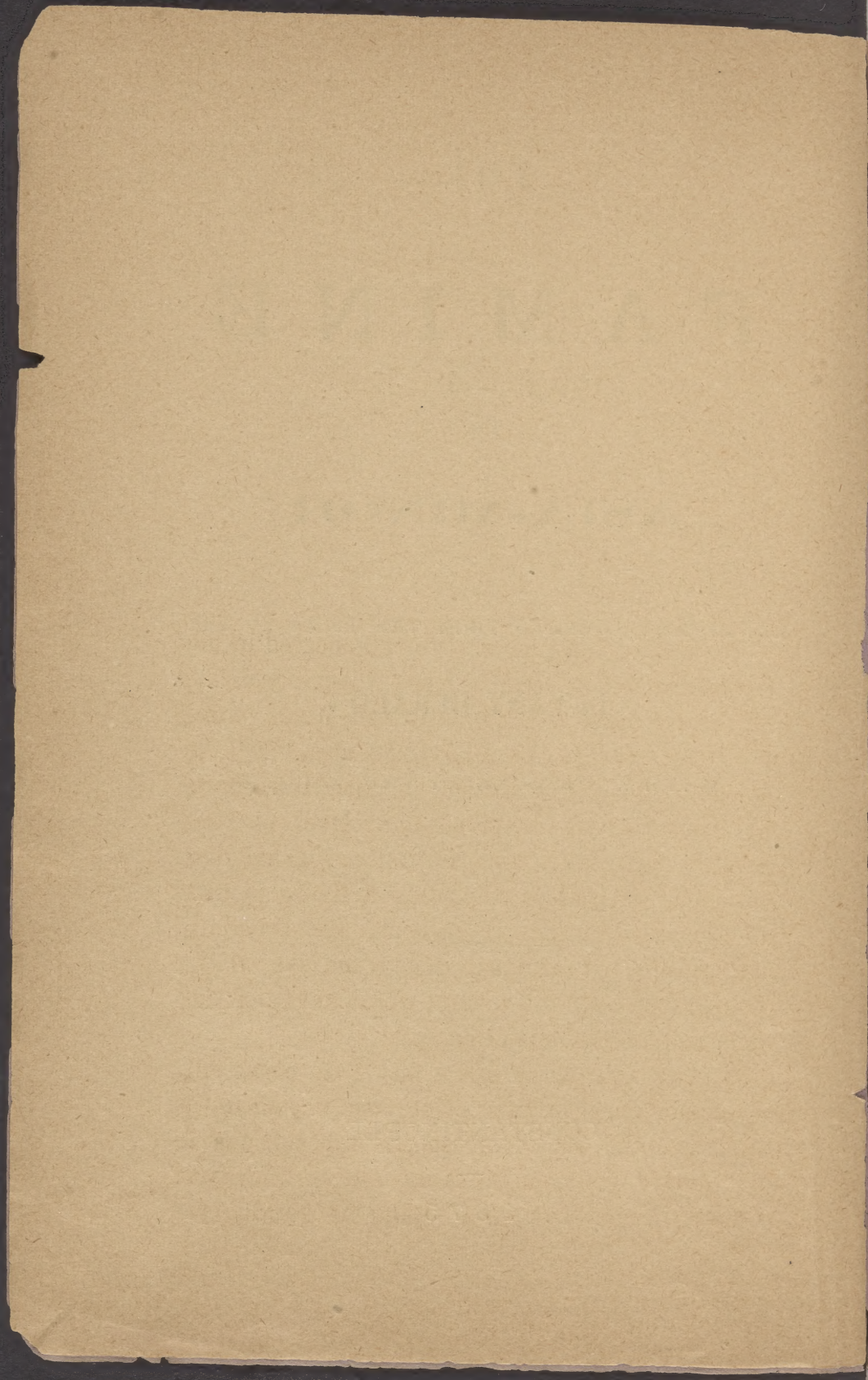
WITH A PREFACE BY THE EDITOR.

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CONSTANTINOPLE

—  
1875







## P R E F A C E

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THE articles and letters which appeared in the *Levant Herald* between March and November, 1878, <sup>4</sup> on the subject of the Famine in Asia Minor, have been collected in the following pages, with the two-fold object of assisting the charitable efforts of those who have bestirred themselves to raise funds by subscription and distribute relief amongst the sufferers, and of presenting a living picture of provincial Turkey, in its social and economical aspects, by bringing under the eye of the reader the facts and events which make up the first chapter of this sad history.

It is no « travellers' tale » that these pages tell.

Its incidents owe their colour and unsightliness neither to the art of the special reporter nor to the *naïveté* of the bookmaking tourist. They have been recorded from day to day by residents in



the districts where they occurred ; men well versed in local languages and customs, and able to understand and reason upon the events that were passing around them. Every statement issuing from these sources has received subsequent confirmation, and the previsions of a prolonged period of suffering are verified as the famine uncoils itself and already reaches far into its second year.

Moreover, the difficulties which beset the telling of the story afforded a guarantee against exaggerated statements. The Gouvernement holds a hard rein upon the press, and it is not in consonance with the views of the Porte that the adversities which may fall upon the country should find a prominent place in the newspapers published in Turkey. And this was more especially the case as regards the famine, which came to the front at the very time the Government was strenuously endeavouring to revive that confidence in its finances, which the crisis of last year had brought to the extremity of weakness. The publication of news which does not redound to the honour of the administration and the glory of the Empire, is held, according to the traditions of the *Bureau de la Presse*, to argue a spirit of disparagement on the part of the publisher and to call for repression. Further, editors of newspapers are held responsible for the accuracy of the news they publish, and good faith is no defence against in-



accuracy, when the incriminated statement is displeasing to the Porte. In fact, in a charge of inaccuracy, as of any other press offence, accusation, condemnation, and punishment are simultaneous, and an unsuspecting editor is liable to find his paper suppressed or suspended without appeal, for a statement in the truth of which he had sufficient reason to place confidence. The subject, then, of the famine, being exceedingly distasteful to the Porte, it was necessary to approach it in the most guarded manner ; to eliminate all that was sensational from the reports, and to give the mildest possible form to comments upon them. Notwithstanding all this care, the expostulations of the Porte at the outset were frequent ; but it is satisfactory to be able to state that when the Porte became convinced that there was no desire on the part of the management of the *Levant Herald* to treat the subject in an exaggerated or sensational manner, but that its objects were first to promote a charitable movement, and, secondly, to discover some practicable means of mending the wretched conditions under which the provincial population of Asia Minor exists, the Porte virtually recognised the usefulness of the position taken by the *Levant Herald*, abstained from further warnings, and communicated much useful information on the subject to that journal. This information fully bore out the news



which the *Levant Herald* had previously obtained from its own correspondents. It may be hoped, from this fact, that the Porte may come ultimately to vouchsafe to the native press emancipation from the tax of wholesale adulation of authorities, and such a measure of liberty in dealing with current truths as may enable it to take equal rank in point of dignity and utility with that of other countries.

It will naturally be matter of wonder to foreigners who read the following pages, how it should have come to pass that the existence of a famine which had been raging all the winter should only have become known in the capital at the beginning of April. To understand this, it is necessary to form an adequate idea in the first place of the complete isolation in which the winter places the several groups of villages. With first rains the rivers and torrents swell and map out the country into a series of districts between which, for want of bridges, there is no communication during the winter months. Snow falls, and then intercourse between villages lying in the same water-bound district becomes almost impossible. The winter of 1873-4 was more than usually severe in the centre of Asia Minor. The rains fell in a deluge in November and December, and in January and February the snow scarcely ceased. The crops had been a general failure; murrain had fallen upon the flocks and



herds; the working oxen also suffered severely. It now becomes apparent that the famine was first felt in the outlying villages where the reserves of food were smallest. But each one of these villages was separated from its neighbour by an almost impenetrable barrier of snow, and there was no inducement to make the effort to break through this barrier. Money to send abroad to buy food there was none, and if food could have been bought, there was no means of conveying it across the country. So the villagers remained locked up in starvation. They ate the little grain they had saved to sow; the few working oxen they had, died from want of tending; and the first news heard of their pitiable condition was that they had nothing to eat but cotton seed, and that whole villages were depopulated. It may fairly be assumed that in none of the villages existed any idea that the famine was general; that the inhabitants of each hoped to struggle on till the snows melted, and then to seek assistance. But the snows lay deep far on into March, and then it was too late. In the larger towns some reserves of food existed, and the population included a middle class possessed of some means and affording a market for the utensils, implements, and furniture of the lowest class. In the towns, therefore, this class sold everything that was moveable, and with the proceeds staved off starvation to some extent. The distress, although very great, was



not of the desperate character of that which fell upon the villages. These towns are, however, mostly in telegraphic communication with the capital, and are the seat of a provincial government. It is true that this communication was, during the depth of winter, very precarious and subject to frequent and prolonged interruption. But still it would be interesting to know what use was made of the telegraph by the local authorities to inform the central government of the state of affairs. It is impossible to ascertain this ; but a knowledge of the character of the lower ranks of provincial governors would lead to the belief that they would be in no haste to place the full truth before the Porte. Probably, owing to the isolation above mentioned, even they were unaware of the full extent of the calamity ; they would have hoped that an early spring might bring easier times, and would have argued that even if the worst were told, then the Porte could render no assistance, for the roads were closed, and Constantinople, two hundred miles distant, might, for all practical purposes, as well have been at the North Pole. *A posteriori*, this hypothesis is sustained by the fact that the Porte did not, immediately on the break up of the winter, despatch succour to the afflicted districts ; for it cannot be admitted that, if the Porte had been in full possession of all the terrible facts of the case, it would have overlooked the peremptory duty of



organising adequate measures of relief in the winter, to be put into execution the first day the roads were open. It is true that the Porte at that period was deeply engrossed in combining arrangements for a new loan, but one would be very loath to conclude that the whole power of the Government was absorbed in this one object, attractive as it might have been, in comparison with the sombre duty of battling with a national affliction. It is, however, evident either that the Porte was imperfectly informed of the state of affairs in provinces 200 miles distant, or that, if duly informed, it omitted to take action upon the information. The one supposition is, as we have shown above, just explicable ; the other is not.

It will seem strange to any one unacquainted with Turkey, who reads these pages, that one year of scarcity should have resulted in such utter desolation. Strange, that there were no reserves of food in so rich a country ; no middle class to render assistance during the few weeks which sufficed to make famine master of the country, and to wreck its social organisation. To understand this, it is necessary to look back to the time of Sultan Mahmoud, the great reformer, who waged such ruthless war against the institutions of the country. Mahmoud, impressed by the tragedies which immediately preceded his reign, and harassed by the insubordination of the Dérébeys,



the feudal chiefs, in the provinces, made it his study to destroy every power in the Empire, and to reduce it to a central despotism. It is needless here to repeat what historians have already amply told, but it is germane to the question to remark that the abrupt subversion of the feudal system dislocated the whole social system of the Empire. The levies of men, which had been raised through the instrumentality of the Dérébeys, were suddenly replaced by the conscription and the levy of taxes upon the industrial population. The industry of the country was at that time thriving fairly; it had not been brought into competition with that of the West, which was further advanced in industrial arts, and better provided with the means and appliances of labour. The raw materials of the country—silk, wool, cotton, and leather—were manipulated with very considerable skill, and the fabrics produced answered fully the requirements of the population, and were in request, even for exportation, on account, not only of their Oriental quaintness, but also of their durability. Wealth was engaged in these branches of industry, but the exigencies of the Treasury necessitated the invasion of that wealth, and in a very few years it was rendered prostrate by fiscal exactions. Its capital was drained away; it had not the means of following the improvements of the age; the men engaged in it grew distrustful and simulated po-



verty in order to escape taxation. Arbitrary taxation was replaced in course of time by a regular fiscal system ; but, meanwhile, foreign manufactures had found their way into the country, and, fostered by treaties of commerce, took those of native origin at a disadvantage, and eclipsed them, if not in point of durability or of taste, at least in variety, in abundance, and in cheapness. Gradually, therefore, between the years 1820 and 1870 the manufacturing industry of Asia Minor faded away, and a remnant, which still exists, depends upon usurers, and now scarcely does more than supply foreign markets with Oriental articles.

Agriculture alone remained ; and for the last fifteen years, agriculture has been the mainstay of the Turkish Treasury. It is true that the direct tax upon agricultural produce is only 12½ per cent., but the mode of collecting this tax at least doubles the burden of it, and all the other taxes, although not specially directed against agriculture, fall upon it, in point of fact, because no other productive industry except agriculture exists in the country.

Moreover, the demands of the Treasury have never been made to coincide with the realisation of the agricultural income. Cultivators have been called upon to pay taxes when their seed was in the ground, and the slender resources which they possessed were needed for the purpose of tending



and harvesting their crops. They have had no alternative but to apply to the usurer, and to fore-stall their crops. This system once begun, although it lent for a few years a fictitious appearance of taxable resource in agriculture, has resulted in the reduction of the agriculturists of Asia Minor to the lowest ebb of poverty. The farmer's crop be it of grain, or wool, or what not is as a rule sold for two and three years in advance; he has no earthly hope but that of obtaining his bare bread from the soil, — no earthly resource if the soil only once plays him false.

Year by year, then, the position of the cultivator of the soil in Turkey has grown weaker. Legislation has done nothing for him. Landed property is a drug, because the State looks upon it only as a fiscal resource. The laws which govern the tenure of real property immobilise it; it is at all times difficult of sale, it affords no security for mortgage. The tribunals, such as they are, are under the control of the executive, and justice is not within the reach of shallow purses. Foreign capital dare not venture itself in the country, nor beyond direct loans to the State does the Government desire that it should. Means of communication there are none, and the cultivator who produces only enough for his own needs is as well off as one who is more industrious; perhaps better off, for there is nothing sure in the provinces of Turkey, except taxation.



These facts, understood, afford an explanation of the fatal results of one year of scarcity in Asia Minor. The vitality of the country burned so miserably low in the socket that the first puff of adversity extinguished it. Everything went by the board, even to the very woodwork of the hovels which sheltered the poor slaves who till now have paid for the wicked waste of a corrupt despotism. There was no margin, no hoard; a month's suffering left the cultivator with nothing to sell but his children. He parted with these for a couple of shillings for bread, burnt his house for warmth, and then came social dissolution. Many died; some who had sown in the early winter dragged on life eating grass and herbs till spring vegetables and fruits matured, and carried them on to the harvest; many more fled, and others took to highway robbery.

The harvest of 1874 in the afflicted districts was only a tenth of that of ordinary years, because the population had been disabled by the famine, and labour had been paralysed. It consequently afforded only temporary relief.

The following pages show what was done by the Government and by private charity to relieve suffering last year. But they show also how incomplete were the measures adopted by the Government, and what a drop in the ocean was the not inconsiderable sum raised by the charitable efforts of Mr. Thomson and the American missionaries. It



will be seen how the tax-gatherer was busy as soon as the meagre apology for a harvest stayed momentarily the ravages of starvation, and how the Government deferred to the very last moment anything like a vigorous attempt to stay the mischief.

The very highest credit is due to Abdul Rahman Pasha, the governor of Angora. He told his Government the whole truth, exerted himself with a zeal and energy to which every one bears testimony, pointed out plainly the measures which were necessary, and offered his resignation unless those measures were adopted. To the credit of the Government, be it stated, he was finally listened to, and his recommendations were well supported by Sadoullah Bey, the president of the Turkish Committee, and one of the ablest and most liberal minded men in the administration.

The resources which Mr. Thomson, almost single-handed, had raised for the succour of the famished were nearly exhausted in September, when it also became evident that the famine of 1875 would be no less severe than that of 1874. At this time, Mr. Crawshay, of Newcastle, visited Constantinople, and went to Angora to ascertain *de visu* the truth of the situation. What he there learned induced him to open a new subscription by depositing L. 600 in the hands of M. Lebet, banker of Galata. This generous gift revived the efforts of private charity, and a Committee was



formed consisting of the Hon. Mr. Boker, the United States minister, Sir Philip Francis H.M. Consul-General and Judge, and Mr. Lebet, banker, with Mr. Foster, C.B. and Mr. Wrench, H.M. Vice-Consul, as honorary secretaries. The Rev. Mr. Millingen, and the Rev. Dr. Thomson set themselves energetically to work in Scotland; Mr. Crawshay was equally active in England; while the Committee canvassed Galata for subscriptions. The result has been the collection of a fund amounting already to L.6,000, which is being distributed amongst the most necessitous under the direction of the Committee, through the valuable instrumentality of Mr. Thomson, the Rev. Mr. Farnsworth and others of the American missionaries. Of this fund we will merely notice the subscription of L.4,000 by the Imperial Ottoman bank, and several important sums which will be found in the appended list raised in Scotland by Mr. Millingen and Dr. Thomson.

While the Committee and its allies were working with the utmost activity, the Khedive of Egypt gave a great impulse to Governmental action by sending the magnificent gift of 50,000 bushels of wheat and 3,000 suits of winter clothing, which by this time have arrived at the scene of distress.

A sketch of the Governmental plan of relief is contained in the extracts which form the body of this pamphlet. It is not, however, as yet possible to speak of it with any great confidence. It had the



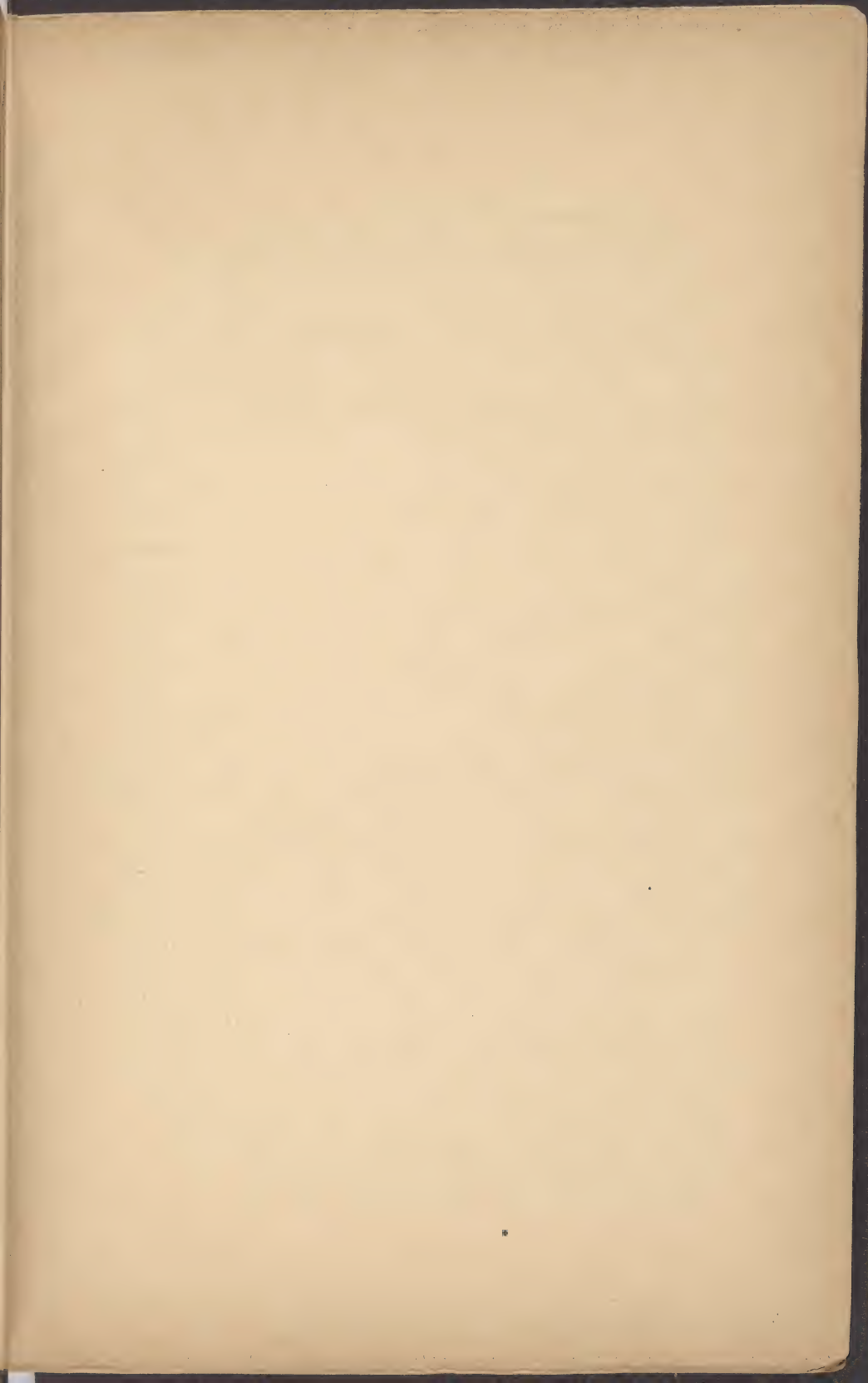
serious defect of being lamentably tardy, and the extent to which it may prove efficacious is yet to be learned.

The Sultan recently subscribed to the Turkish relief fund a sum of L. 20,000, and despatched a Special Commissioner to the famine districts to report upon the progress of the calamity. Nothing has yet transpired with regard to the application of His Majesty's gift ; the reports of the Commissioner have however been so far of a character which fails to inspire confidence, and has called forth a unanimous and severe censure from the British Relief Committee, the text of which will be found in the appendix.

With these remarks we close this preface. Nothing that we can say in the way of appeal to charity can add to the eloquence of the facts which the history of the famine discloses ; we can only hope that in bringing them together, as we have done, the sad tale which they tell may be more widely spread and more perfectly understood.

E. W.

Pera, January 1, 1875.







# THE FAMINE

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The first note of warning of the approaching calamity was sounded in the following letter addressed from Angora, on April 8, 1874, to the *Levant Herald* :

This town has suffered even more than other parts of Asia Minor from the long and severe winter. Under a hot sun, the ice and snow that almost buried the town during four months are gradually melting. Even now, however, huge piles of ice and snow encumber many of the narrow streets, and the mornings and evenings are still very cold, the thermometer registering several degrees of frost. Angora has all the appearance of a place that has undergone a siege. As the winter increased in severity, the villagers from the district around,—their means of subsistence cut off by the partial or total loss of their flocks and herds,—crowded into the town, and now live upon charity, which they sup-



plicate in the streets with the melancholy wail and the pious ejaculations peculiar to Turkish mendicants. The state of these destitute peasants is truly deplorable. Owing to the rigorous winter and to last summer's drought, private stores and public deposits of grain, flour, etc., are meagrely supplied. The roads to the north and east, in the direction of Kaiserieh, whence come the bulk of these supplies, are still so blocked up with snowdrifts that even the Tatars are unable to travel, and the passage of loaded mule-trains is impossible. Towards Ismidt the road is comparatively open as far as Ayash, a place about 24 miles from Angora, where the path, traversing a precipitous range of hills, has been several times obliterated by heavy snowfalls. The passage has become a work of days, instead of hours, and has been attended with the loss of many mules and of two muleteers, who perished from exposure and fatigue. Wheat is sold at four piastres an oke (four times its usual value). The local Government thought proper to fix this as its limit; but the result has been exactly the reverse of what was intended, as it put an end to private enterprise. As the Government, moreover, could not reach its own stores, the direst scarcity has been the result, and it was calculated this week that scarcely fifteen days' stock of wheat and flour remained on hand. A more practical measure was an order from the Pasha to the heads of the different communities to hold themselves in readiness to supply a certain number of beasts of burden to convey grain to the town, the number requisitioned in this way being in proportion to the number of households. At one time serious fears were entertained of disturbances similar to the wheat riots that occurred last year at Yozgat, but, thanks to this last sensible measure of the *vali*, these fears have passed away. As the roads gradually open and supplies become abundant, there is no doubt that the heavy covering of snow will prove a blessing, instead of an evil, and ensure an abundant, though somewhat backward harvest.

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As the roads opened, however, and communications were re-established with adjacent districts, it became evident that famine had already made terrible ravages among the population of outlying villages. News to this effect elicited the following appeal to charity which appeared in the *Levant Herald* of April 23 :

Charity, prompt liberal charity, must come to the aid of the famine-stricken population of Asia Minor, or there will be a terrible tale to tell. In the provinces of Castamouni and of Angora the people are starving. Barley is 400 piastres per kileh, and Indian corn 6 piastres per oke. In other words, grain even of this poor quality, is rather more than fourpence a pound, or, to make the figures yet more clear, barley is LS. 7 10s. a quarter, and Indian corn LS. 8. The people are reduced to eating cotton seed. A correspondent tells us of a wretched family, reduced to the utmost state of starvation, ere the stripped cobs of Indian corn were pounded into meal, and made into bread for the children. The children ate it, and died shortly after of intestinal disease. These accounts come from Kaiserieh, from Tchangoura, from Maaden and Istmos, near Angora, and from other places. At Kaiserieh the populace rose and told the authorities that, if they were not relieved, they must take the law into their own hands, and gather food where they could find it. The local authorities have made a sad mistake. The native dealers, foreseeing the season of scarcity, imported grain, and held it for comparatively high rates to cover their risk and give them a profit. The authorities, with the best possible intentions, but entirely ignoring the



inexorable laws of supply and demand, forced the importers to sell their grain at unremunerative rates. This interference on the part of the Government gave momentary relief. But that relief was dearly bought, for no one would venture to import any more grain. The laws of economy triumphed, the door was opened to famine, and starvation stalked in.

Something is being done for the Christian population in the most severely afflicted localities. A group of native merchants assisted by a few Englishmen trading in those districts, amongst whom appear most prominently the names of Messrs. Thomson, Gatheral, and Seager, have set a subscription on foot, and about 500 liras have been collected in Galata. Further, on the application of Mr. Thomson, a liberal donation of 400 liras has been subscribed by a Bradford firm. But this, even for the comparatively few Christians, is but a drop in the ocean, and more help is cried aloud for. Every day the case becomes more urgent. We, therefore, most earnestly appeal, alike on behalf of Mussulmans and Christians, to the liberality of the charitable. We undersand that donations will be received at the Imperial Ottoman Bank. We shall shortly publish a list of the amounts already subscribed, and, meanwhile, we desire to impress all our readers with the terrible urgency of the case, and to crave their prompt liberality. *Bis dat qui cito dat.*

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A week later the tidings from the afflicted districts grew more gloomy, and the *Levant Herald* published what follows :

The most distressing accounts continue to reach us from Angora Kaiserieh (Cæsarea) and Yozgat, where famine still

prevails, and mortality, especially amongst children, is assuming alarming proportions. A private letter from a recent traveller on the Angora roads says,—“The distress is immense, and all along the road we met poor wretches positively dying from starvation, and striving, naked and hungry, to reach Constantinople, where they hope to find work and bread. In Angora you could find a thousand men to-day willing to work at anything for their daily bread, and cases of death from starvation are frequent.” To add to the distress, the severity of the winter has seriously damaged the flocks of Angora goats, which yield the precious staple known in commerce as mohair, and called in Turkish “tiftik.” Upwards of fifty per cent., it is believed, of these flocks have been lost, and it is feared that the sheep-tax, which last year produced LT. 187,000, will not yield for this year more than LT. 50,000.

As we lately announced, a relief subscription has been set on foot by a group of English and native merchants, and the result, so far, of this charitable effort, is shown on the list which we publish below. Besides this help, the Armenian community has collected about LT. 3,000, and the Patriarchate has applied to the Porte for the organisation of committees. Nor is the Government inactive, as will be perceived by the notifications extracted below from the Turkish journals:

In consequence of the famine that has raged for some time in the districts of Kaiserieh, Yozgat and Angora, the Imperial Government, a short time ago, took the necessary measures for succouring the distressed population. At the same time an active inquiry into the causes of the calamity was set on foot; correspondence ensued between the central government and the provincial authorities; government officers were sent to the provinces to acquaint themselves with the wants of the people, and to stimulate the zeal of the local authorities in the performance of their duties. Ultimately, districts suffering



from the famine were considerably relieved by succour in money, and provisions were sent from the capital and from the neighbouring localities. Nevertheless, information received from the local authorities indicates that the famine continues with greater intensity even than before, and that it has spread to the districts of Castamboul, Djanik and Samsoun. Under these circumstances, it has become necessary to bring down supplies of grain from the provinces in the interior of Anatolia. The governor-general of Diarbekir has therefore been instructed to collect grain and forward it without delay to the suffering districts. In compliance with this order, the *vali*, accompanied by a numerous suite of officers and an escort of cavalry, has gone to Malatia and Kharpoot. At the same time the commander-in-chief of the 4th corps-d'armée has been ordered by the Sublime Porte to commission a competent officer from the garrison of Erzinghian to secure provisions and beasts of burden and forward them to Sivas. Telegraphic orders have been sent to the governor of Cara-Hissar Charki to despatch to Sivas a portion of the large supplies of wheat which exist in the plain of Shoushar (a dependency of Cara-Hissar), together with herds of animals which may be purchased from the neighbouring tribes. On the other hand, 200,000 okes of flour have been sent from Constantinople, by the steamer *Assyr*, to Ismidt, whence they will be forwarded to Angora. Brigadier-General Ali Pasha, has been selected to accompany this convoy, and, with several officers and cavalry soldiers, left by the same steamer, which also carried 480 horses of the army transport, that had been placed at the disposal of the general. Such are the measures, which, under the auspices of our August Sovereign, the Imperial Government has taken with a view to alleviate the calamity that has fallen upon some of its Anatolian provinces; and there is good foundation for the hope that, thanks to the zeal and solicitude of the Imperial Government, this cruel misfortune will ere long be overcome.

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According to another official communication, published by the Turkish papers, the importation of grain into Anatolia

by the ports of Ghemlek and Broussa will, during a month, be exempt from duty. This latter measure has been taken with a view to provide against the dearth which threatens the province of Broussa and the surrounding districts. The *Assyr* left on Tuesday for Ismidt. We are glad to be able to add that the Austrian and French steamers take grain, flour, and other goods, sent hence for the purpose of relieving distress, without charge. In all directions, private as well as official, praiseworthy efforts are, as it will be seen, being made to afford relief to the famine-stricken population. But the demand for such relief is far in excess of its present amount, and further assistance is urgently needed. It is gratifying to see that the burden has not been indolently left upon the shoulders of the Government, but that private charity has come forward with promptitude and liberality ; still, we cannot refrain from endeavouring further to stimulate the charitable movement by impressing upon our readers how great and how urgent is the need for their bounty, and to express the hope that the subscription list which is still open at Messrs. Hanson's and at the Imperial Ottoman Bank, may receive important additions before we have occasion to revert again to this distressing subject.

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The subscription list at this date stood as follows :

DONATIONS OF SACKS OF FLOUR.

The Imperial Ottoman Bank..100 sacks	The Bank of Constantinople 40 sacks
» Société Générale de l'Em-	» Société Commerciale Ot-
pire Ottoman....., 50	tomane..... 20 »
» Crédit Général Ottoman.. 50	»

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DONATIONS OF MONEY.

Subscription from Bradford (England), LT.440 (L.400 sterling.)

Local subscriptions, in Turkish liras :

Mr. John R. Thomson.....	LT. 25	Mr. E. C. Grace.....	LT. 5
„ Altuntopoglou.....	„ 35	„ A. Michoglou.....	„ 5
„ Société Ottomane de Chan-		„ Yovani Zaharian.....	„ 5
ges et de Valeurs.....	„ 30	„ W. E. Jackson.....	„ 5
„ Stephanovitch.....	„ 30	„ George Gatheral.....	„ 5
„ J. Camondo and Co.....	„ 20	„ Costi Hadji Yorgi.....	„ 5
„ N. Dussi.....	„ 20	„ H. Anastas Tashjioglou....	„ 5
„ Zafropoulo and Zarifi....	„ 15	„ Nicolas H. Anastasoglou....	„ 5
„ Mille père et fils.....	„ 15	„ Yorgi Caracassoglou.....	„ 5
„ A. Ralli.....	„ 10	„ M. X.....	„ 3
„ Ch. S. Hanson and Co....	„ 10	„ Zofropoulo.....	„ 3
„ P. Mavrogordatos.....	„ 10	„ Pignatelli and Co.....	„ 3
„ A. Adamandidis.....	„ 10	„ Joachim Anastasiades....	„ 3
„ Ed. La Fontaine.....	„ 10	„ John Seager.....	„ 3
„ Theodore Godjamanoglou.	„ 10	„ Youvani H. Protomossoglou	„ 3
„ D. Kiupezioglou.....	„ 10	„ M. Vasiliadis.....	„ 2
„ Aaicastas Zumbiloglou....	„ 10	„ Ant. Ralli.....	„ 2
„ U. J. Negropontes.....	„ 10	„ N. Burness.....	„ 2
„ Archanguelus.....	„ 5	„ Christo Pappazoglou....	„ 1
„ M. Camara.....	„ 5	„ Suble.....	„ 1
Bank Verissi and Cossoudi..	„ 5	Anonymous.....	„ 1
Mr. William Slaars.....	„ 5	M. A. Nomico.....	„ 1

On the 6th May, Shevket Bey, Prefect of Stamboul, opened a public subscription for the relief of the sufferers by the famine. His excellency also caused subscription-lists to be circulated in the bazaars and amongst the members of the various Corporations in Stamboul. The Turkish paper, the *Bassiret*, the pupils of the School of Medicine, and the officials of the High Court of Justice, began also to collect subscriptions for the sufferers. Many Turks preferred giving their contributions in flour or otherwise in kind, to prevent the malversation which the sight of gold might have suggested to the provincial officials.

The following day the Chaplain of the British Embassy sent the following letter to the Editor of the *Levant Herald* :

SIR,—You did me the favour to publish a notice from me in your paper of the 2nd inst., that a statement would be made as to the great distress from famine in Asia Minor. On Sunday last, the 3rd inst., I mentioned to my congregation that I must request their indulgence in awaiting fuller information to enable me to put the case well before them. I said, that, if it be fairly proved, there could be no question as to our duty to render help ; and that then would arise the further question as to the administration of the money. If you do me the favour to insert my letter, you will, I am sure, elicit from many persons their acknowledgment of the facts, and what is equally valuable, their advice, as to the most prudent mode of meeting and ameliorating the distress.

Through the kindness of the Consul-general, I am now furnished with sufficient matter to justify me in requesting a collection to be made, with the consent of H.M. Chargé d'Affaires, on Sunday next, in the Chapel of H.M. Embassy. In the meanwhile, however, any further information will be valuable.—I am, etc.,

CHARLES B. GRIBBLE, Chaplain.

Chichli, May 6.

On the following Sunday afternoon, a sermon was also preached and a collection made, at the Dutch Chapel in Pera, on behalf of the sufferers in the famine-stricken districts.

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At this time the Porte began to perceive the necessity of taking more vigorous action as regarded the famine, and on the 14th May the following statements appeared in the *Levant Herald* :



A special Relief Committee, instituted by the Turkish Government, for the purpose of organising prompt aid to the sufferers in the famine-stricken districts in Anatolia, met on Saturday at the Porte. The committee consists of his excellency Sadoullah Bey, first dragoman of the Imperial Divan, as president; General Mahmoud Pasha, Chief of the Staff at the Seraskierate; Ibrahim Bey, member of the High Court of Justice; Mihran Bey Duz, Armenian Catholic director of the Mint; Yovantchi Effendi and Pavlaki Effendi, Bulgarian and Greek functionaries respectively of the Porte. It was decided at Saturday's sitting to despatch at once to the districts most in need, not remittances of money, but supplies in kind of wheat, flour, rice, biscuits, and other suitable provisions. Telegraphic and other advices describe the situation as highly critical; the grain hitherto sent has proved insufficient, the pinch of famine is more keenly felt, and over a larger area, and the number of deaths from sheer starvation is increasing. The town of Koniah, we learn, must be added to the list of suffering localities. The rise in the price of provisions was already pressing upon the people, when the masses of accumulated snow during the late heavy snowstorms rapidly melted within a week, transforming the small stream that waters the neighbourhood of the town into a raging torrent which swept away all the flour-mills, and thus deprived the population of flour. The Governor-general, his Highness Essad Pasha, ex-Grand Vizier, caused an oke of wheat per head per day to be distributed to the most necessitous; but as there were only a few hand-mills, to grind these rations, great privations have been endured. One of the earliest supplies of the Government Relief Committee will probably be despatched to Koniah. Much distress is reported also as being experienced at Tchanguora, but as that town is not far distant from Sivas, where a tolerably good stock of grain is understood to be in store, relief will, it is expected, not fail to reach it from the latter quarter. It is to be hoped that the Government will take measures to ensure that the means supplied for the relief of the suffering districts

shall be judiciously, speedily, and fully distributed, without any needless delays or formalities, or the interposition of anything calculated to divert the gifts of the charitable from those they are designed to succour. It has been suggested, amongst other things, that it might be desirable if the Government were to order the collection of the arrears of taxes to be suspended for the present until the return of better times in the famine-stricken quarters.

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On the 14th May, Mr. John R. Thomson, who took an active part from the outset in the creation and adminisiration of the relief fund, wrote as follows to the *Levant Herald* :

SIR,—I beg to inform you that since the publication in the pages of the *Levant Herald* of the list of subscriptions to the Anatolia Famine Fund, the following further contributions have been made : By the Bebek Chapel, LT. 25 ; British Embassy Chapel, LT. 26.8 ; Dutch Chapel, LT. 40.66 ; total, LT. 64.74 ; which you will greatly oblige by acknowledging in like manner.

The accounts we continue to receive show very little improvement in the condition of the poor, notwithstanding all the efforts of the Government and of private benevolence.

In a telegram from Castamboul, dated yesterday, my agent quotes 2 piastres per oke as the cost of carriage from there to Tchangoura, and I am told that the *vali* has intimated to the poor of Tchangoura that if they want relief they must find their way to Castamboul to receive it, and that in consequence hundreds of starving creatures, young and old, are walking the distance, 24 hours, over a rough and mountainous country, very cold on the heights and very hot in the valleys.

My brother telegraphs from Angora yesterday : “ Famine very slightly modified,” which I take to mean that the recent rains have not been sufficient to insure the harvest, and



therefore any who have stores of food, still conceal them and buy from the bakers, thus adding to the competition for foodstuffs that have to be imported at so great a cost. It no doubt also means that the relief from Government and elsewhere is altogether insufficient; and I wish very much we could find a way to the hearts of the wealthy in this city to induce them to make a still greater effort for the relief of their poor starving fellow-countrymen. It is surely altogether wrong that men should be allowed to starve to death within 200 miles of a city so wealthy as Constantinople. —I am, etc.,

JOHN R. THOMSON.

Stamboul, May 12.

P.S.—I open this to include a further contribution by Sir Philip Francis of LS. 5 48s., which please to acknowledge with others; also, from the Austro-Ottoman Bank, LT. 30.

Mr. Thomson, at the same time, forwarded for publication the following extracts from a private letter from Angora, dated May 6 :

Yesterday, I telegraphed to you asking you to let me have my share of flour to distribute myself, as I can see no chance of working in harmony with the Angoralis. They are all fanatical, and each will try to relieve his own co-religionists to the exclusion of the others. Now the case will not admit of any partiality whatever, and the most needy of whatever sect must have the first consideration. The Turks are by far the most distressed and are dying in the streets 4 or 5 a day, while I have not heard of any death from starvation amongst the Christians. One's heart bleeds to see the poor wretches. What were great strong men whining and crying like children for a morsel of bread; mothers with infants at the breast slowly but certainly dying, unless immediate and extensive relief comes. I have opened a soup kitchen and have fed three to five hundred of the worst cases once a day for six days, but to-morrow I must close it as I really cannot afford to spend more. I hope or rather wish that my example may be followed by some of the natives, but I fear it is too much

to expect. I am beset from morning till night by hundreds of starving people and at last have been obliged to keep my office-door locked as it is impossible to send away empty those who are craving a mouthful of bread. Money they all or nearly all refuse.

We have had timely and copious rains, and if, a fortnight hence, we have one day's rain more, the crops will be comparatively safe. The amount sown is very small, but with favourable weather it will be sufficient.

I have just now heard that the municipal authorities are distributing 4,000 pounds weight of bread to-day and that they will continue to do so for some days.

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Sir Philip Francis, Her Majesty's Consul-General and Judge, announced on the same day that Dr. Muir, of Edinburgh, had forwarded L. 5 as a subscription for relief of the starving population of Angora and the adjacent districts. Very great difficulty was experienced even at this season of the year, when the roads were open, in obtaining the means of transport for grain and flour sent from Constantinople for the sufferers.

The most direct and practicable road is that from Ismidt to Angora, the distance between which two points is 250 miles. If mules could have been obtained they would, heavily laden, have accomplished this distance in a fortnight, but the Government pressed all the mules it could find into its own service, and consequently beasts of burden, as might have been expected, disappeared from this district.

We publish in another column (says the *Levant Herald* of that date) the latest information on the subject of the famine,



both as to subscriptions given and other praiseworthy steps taken by private individuals for their relief. We have this morning received an "official communication" from the Porte, expressing the pain felt by the Government at the news from Anatolia, and stating that it has hastened to afford succour. The Commission appointed for the purpose at the Porte, under the presidency of Sadoullah Bey, chief dragoman of the Imperial Divan, in order to enable the charitable to turn their humane wishes to account, has caused a public subscription to be opened at the offices of the Government Saving's Bank (*Emniyet Sandiki*) at Buyuk-Yeni-Khan in Stamboul. Receipts, stamped with the seals of the Commission and of the Bank, will be given for all contributions, which will be calculated at the « good money » rate. The Commission will publish the names of contributors, with the amounts paid, and will also keep the public informed from time to time, through the newspapers, of the localities helped by the assistance thus afforded, and of the manner and other details of the distribution of the relief.— It is proverbial that misfortunes never come singly, and some of the wool-growing districts, in which famine now prevails, have been visited also with a fatal disease amongst the goats which supply the *tiftik* wool in large quantities. The latest advices state that as many as 500,000 goats have perished in the districts of Angora, Castamboul and Tchangoura, nearly a half of the whole of the flocks which remained. Some four or five months ago, at the approach of winter, and when fodder was running short, about 1,000,000 goats were moved away in the direction of Adana and Tarsus. There had previously been upwards of 2,000,000 of goats in the districts first named. The wool of the dead goats has been shorn, and is available for sale and use, but there will be a falling off of at least L.T. 800,000. Next year, however, the effects of the disease will be more severely felt in the dimi-

nished return of wool. No positive news has yet been received of the flocks which were transferred to the south, but it is believed that they have escaped the visitation which caused such serious ravages amongst the goats left behind.

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At this time the Porte appointed a new governor to Angora, and, on the 16th May, the *Levant Herald*, in mentioning his departure for his post, gives further news about the Famine, and at the same time acknowledged further subscriptions.

Abdul Rahman Pasha, the newly appointed governor-general of Angora, left yesterday for Moudania, whence he will proceed at once to his post, where it will require all his energy and resources to abate the great distress which prevails. Provincial subscriptions are being promoted in several vilaëts in aid of the sufferers, and in the vilaët of the Dannbe we learn from the *Touna* that a sum of 6,000 piastres has been collected. Other parts of the country are also forwarding their contributions. We publish a further letter from Mr. Thomson, of Stamboul, who has so generously taken the initiative in organising subscriptions amongst the British community here and at home, and through whom the munificent contribution of L. 400 stg. from a single firm in Bradford was transmitted. Mr. Thomson announces additional subscriptions of L. 40 from Dr. Muir, of London, and L. 40 from Mr. Malloch, a Glasgow merchant. The latest news from Koniah is more satisfactory. The people there were suffering very much from the inundations which had swept away all the flour-mills. The floods, however, have abated, and his Highness Essad Pasha, formerly Grand Vizier, and now governor-general at Koniah, has acted with promptitude in taking all possible measures within his reach on the spot; he has forbidden the export of grain, and caused the produce of the



double tithe of the fertile district of Pek-Sheir and of the *caimakamliks* of Sparta and Ilghan to be brought into Koniah. This will amount altogether to 96,000 Constantinople kilehs of grain.

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In the *Levant Herald* of May 19, the following details are given of the progress of the subscription and the manner of its application.

We publish to-day an interesting letter from Mr. Thomson, giving particulars of the sums collected by what may be termed the English committee for the sufferers in the famine-stricken districts in Anatolia, and the manner in which the relief has been distributed. The total amount received has been LT. 4,243, and an aggregate of LT. 4,445 has been expended, leaving an immediate balance of LT. 98 in the hands of the committee. Further subscriptions are announced of LT. 25 from M. Sidney Locock, her Majesty's chargé d'affaires, and of LT. 5 from Admiral Hobart Pasha.— We also learn that the Porte has received from Ismidt, under date of the 13th inst., an official despatch announcing that a caravan, composed of 47 camels, and 48 mules laden with 204 sacks of flour, had started for Angora. Two other despatches have reached headquarters; one from General Ali Pasha at Broussa, announcing that the governor-general of that city had sent to Angora 93 camels laden with 278 sacks of flour; the other from General Hassan Husni Pasha at Angora who has been commissioned to organise relief in that city. The telegram is dated the 14th inst., and states that a portion of the supplies of flour sent by the Government had arrived, and that, in consequence, bread was now fairly abundant in the bazaars of the town.

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## THE DISPOSAL OF THE RELIEF FUND

Sir,

As it may interest your readers and the friends who have contributed to the famine relief fund to know how the Committee has disposed so far of the money intrusted to them, I am instructed to send you the following particulars :

On the 22nd April, the day we commenced to solicit subscriptions, we telegraphed the agents in Changura to purchase and distribute to the suffering Christians there 50 liras worth of wheat, and this help proved sufficient to succour 174 persons for nearly four weeks.

Finding that further supplies of wheat or barley could not be bought in Changura under 8 p. per oke, we, on the 23rd April, despatched by way of Ineboli to Changura 400 sacks of flour with instructions to distribute among the destitute of all creeds.

A few days later and as soon as we were able to secure transport, we sent 400 bags of flour by way of Ismidt to Angora with similar instructions to the agents there, who will be assisted in the distribution by H.B.M. Consular Agent.

Since then we have sent off another lot of 400 bags of flour to Changura, part of which will be forwarded to Madenkeui, where the suffering is very great ; also another 400 bags to Angora. We also paid 50 liras to the Rev. E. Green of the American Mission, for distribution through his agents at Marsovan and elsewhere.

Also, we have given instructions to open in Angora a soup kitchen to give relief in this form to the extent of 400 liras.

The total subscriptions received to date are L.T. 1,243 and the recapitulations of disbursements is as follows :

Cash to buy wheat in Changura.....	LT.	50	
Cash to Rev. E. Green for Marsovan..	»	50	
Cash to be expended in soup kitchen .	»	400	
400 sacks 24,000 okes flour .....	»	540	
Cost of transport estimated at .....	»	400	
Freight on 200 sacks to Ineboli gratis			
Freight on 200 sacks to Ismid about .	»	5	
			4,445
Balance in hand			L.T. 98



When the accounts come in I shall have pleasure in sending an exact statement; meantime we have paid on 100 sacks from Kastamboul to Changura 2 p. per oke for transport; the cost from Ineboli to Kastamboul will probably be 4 p. per oke, or, say, 180 p. copper money per sack of 60 okes; the cost of transport from Ismidt to Angora will no doubt be less, and therefore we have estimated the carriage all round at 120 p., or say L.T. 4 per sack.

Barley and straw being at famine prices all along the routes, it costs the muleteers 20 to 30 p. per day for each animal, and if, therefore, the Government were to lend horses as some suggest, I do not think any saving could be effected by employing them unless the Government was also to pay for their food *en route* as well as the food of the soldiers in charge.

The Government has already done a good deal in the way of sending relief, but notwithstanding the distress is still very great, and as the poor are absolutely dependent upon external help until the harvest in July and August, there can be no doubt that many must perish from want unless supplies are kept up either by the Government or by private benevolence or both.

The subscription list will therefore be kept open, and donations, sent in to the Imperial Ottoman Bank, to Messrs. C. S. Hanson and Co., or any member of the Committee, will be immediately converted into flour and forwarded to the most necessitous in the worst districts only.

Every precaution has been taken by the Committee that the utmost fairness and impartiality shall be used in the distribution. The agents employed being representatives of English, Greek, and Armenian merchants of respectability, acting in consort, and vouched for by the signatures of the heads of the communities to each detailed statement of distribution.

These statements, one of which I send for your inspection, contain the names and numbers of each family obtaining relief as well as the quantities they receive.— I am, Sir, for the Committee,

JOHN R. THOMSON.

Stamboul, May 15.

*Additional Subscriptions :*

Sidney Locoock, Esq., H.M. Chargé d'Affaires	L.T.	25
The Hon. Hobart Pasha.....	»	5

The Sultan at this date had his name entered at the head of the Turkish list of subscriptions for the relief of the distress in Anatolia for LT. 5,000. The Grand Vizier contributed LT. 500 ; the President of the Council of State, LT.400; the Sheik-ul-Islam, LT. 250 ; and other Ministers of State and high functionaries for considerable amounts.

The English Relief Committe in Stamboul furnished the following list, through Mr.Thomson, of further subscriptions received.

Sir,

Will you kindly acknowledge in the pages of the *Levant Herald* the following contributions paid to me this day on account of the Anatolia famine fund by Messrs. C. E. Hanson and Co., viz :

On the 24 April, from Mrs. Suhle.....	L. T.	1
„ 4 May „ Rev. C. G. Curtis, Memorial Church.....	„	1.18
„ 5 „ „ Serj. Lyne, Scutari ....	„	2.2
„ 11 „ „ Rev. C. G. Curtis, Memorial Church.....	„	6.30
„ 14 „ „ Dr. Sarell.....	„	1.
„ 15 „ „ Hobart Pasha.....	„	5.
„ — „ „ Sidney Locoock, Esq.....	„	25.
„ — „ „ G. Baker, Esq.....	„	5.
„ 18 „ „ Dr Palmis .....	„	5.
		<u>L.T. 51.68</u>

which, with the LT. 1,243 previously collected,  
makes the total to date..... L.T.1.291.68

I Am, etc.,

JOHN R. THOMSON

Stamboul, May 19.



We have already announced, writes the *Levant Herald* of 5th May, that the Sultan has contributed L.T. 5,000 from his privy purse to the Turkish Commission sitting in Stamboul, under the presidency of Sadoullah Bey, for the relief of the famine-stricken districts in Asia Minor. The Validé Sultana (his Majesty's mother) has given L.T. 500 in money and bears the expense of loading a vessel with a cargo of flour, rice, and other provisions. The sum contributed to the fund by the Grand Vizier and the other Ministers and high functionaries of the Porte amounts in the aggregate to upwards of L. T. 3,000. — It will be observed that a meeting of the subscribers to the Famine Fund, managed by Englishmen, and of which M. Thomson, of Stamboul, is honorary secretary, will be held at 2 o'clock to-morrow afternoon at the British Consulate. Sir Philip Francis, Her Majesty's Consul-General and Judge, will take the chair, and all desirous of lending assistance are requested to attend. The sum collected by this Committee exceeds L. T. 4,300, and nearly the whole of it has already served the benevolent purpose for which it was destined in relieving the starving people in the suffering districts in a prompt and practical manner, as far as the amount subscribed would admit of.

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On the 21st May the Porte received an official telegram from Ismidt announcing that a caravan of 474 camels laden with 4,442 bags of flour, had been despatched from that town on the previous day for Angora. On the 22nd a meeting of the subscribers to the relief fund was held at the British Consulate, of which the following report appeared in the *Levant Herald* :

A meeting in behalf of the famine-stricken provinces in Anatolia was held yesterday at 2 P.M., at the British Consulate. The chair was occupied by Sir Philip Francis. The meeting was not as numerous as could have been desired owing, no doubt, to the fact that yesterday being the heaviest post-day in the week, many merchants and men of business were unable to attend. In opening the proceedings, Sir Philip Francis said that although a good deal had been done by the relief committee organised at Constantinople, to alleviate the suffering in the distressed provinces, the subscriptions which that committee had been able to collect were insignificant in comparison with the vast extent of country that required relief. That the succour obtained by private subscription had been of some avail was, however, certain, for according to a communication received from Mr. Gatheral, H.M. vice-consul at Angora, the provisions forwarded by the committee to the interior had arrived just in time to save a large number of people at Changura, one of the towns that had been the most affected by the famine. A large proportion of the inhabitants of this town were on the point of starvation when the supplies of the committee arrived. Mr. Thomson, to whom the organisation of the committee is due, was happy to be able to assure the meeting that not one ounce of the provisions nor one para of the money contributed by private individuals, that had passed through his hands, had been wasted. Many of the local bankers and merchants had responded readily and generously to the appeal for charity, and, amongst these, one who especially deserved mention was Mr. Scouloudy of the Bank of Constantinople, who had contributed a most handsome donation. Sir Philip Francis said that the committee, of which Mr. Thomson was the head, had been the first to devise means of succouring the starving people in Asia minor. The example of the committee had been followed by the leading Government officials; his Imperial Majesty the Sultan had swelled the contributions by the munificent gift of L.T. 5,000, and it was to be hoped that the wealthy dignitaries and State functionaries who had not yet joined in the subscription, and of whom there were so many in the capital,



would not any longer withhold the material assistance which they could so easily afford. In regard to the duration of the famine, Mr. Thomson said that it must last 50 days longer at the lowest computation, and that, during that interval, 2,000 rations at 5 piastres each would be required daily for the poor of Angora alone, of which the committee had undertaken the relief. Sir Philip Francis, in the course of the meeting, read the following letters. The first had been addressed to him by Mr. Thomson. It ran thus :

I am glad that you are so successful in getting subscriptions for the sufferers here, and I shall no doubt be able with them to save a great many lives.

Deaths have occurred from starvation at the rate of 10 to 24 per day, nearly all among the villagers who have come here for help.

The other day, while some of the worst cases were being carried down to the Serai to get bread given them, seven died on the way of exhaustion.

From Madenkeui, 18 hours from Angora and 20 from Tchangura, I hear that the state of things is worse, robbery and murder following upon starvation.

From Tchangura I have no late news, but, before the meeting on Friday, the letters will probably come, and in any case there is enough in the Angora district alone to give employment for all the funds we can raise here or in England.

I have to-day received L.T. 51.68 from Messrs. Hanson's. There was no further sum at the Imperial Ottoman Bank.

JOHN R. THOMSON.

To Sir P. Francis.

May 18.

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The second letter was from M. Gatheral, and was dated Angora, May 13 :

The effects of last year's famine and the unprecedented winter still continue. Wheat is 6 piastres per oke and bread 5 piastres. Deaths from famine and the diseases it induces are frequent ; several women and children have been fatally injured in the frightful scramble for bread that takes place du-

ring the few hours daily that the baker's shops are allowed to be open, and the numbers of poor and destitute are constantly increased by the villagers flocking into town from all quarters as the roads open up. These miserable people were able to store no grain from last year, and the severe winter has destroyed their flocks and herds—their last resource. Mr. Edwin Thomson has done much good by opening a sort of soup-kitchen on the European model, where women and children especially can get one comfortable meal daily, and we have both done all in our power to alleviate the misery and rouse the richer native merchants of the town to a sense of their duty.

With the aid of the funds collected in Constantinople by subscription for the purpose, we hope to extend these operations somewhat, but until the harvest is reaped there will be much suffering.

Fortunately the harvest prospects are good. The heavy snow-falls have been succeeded by abundant rains and the appearance of the whole district this year is a marked contrast to the parched and sterile fields of last season. As I am writing I learn that the Government flour (200,000 okes forwarded from the capital) has arrived, and that the local authorities have thereupon doubled the daily amount issued to the bakers and considerably reduced the prices.

The proceedings closed with votes of thanks to the committee, to Mr. Thomson, and to Sir Philip Francis, for presiding.

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A few contributions were received at this time to the relief fund. Sir Philip Francis acknowledged the receipt of L. 10 from the Bulwer Lodge of Freemasons, of an offertory collection made on 24th May at the British Embassy Chapel in Pera, amounting to 907 piastres, and of L. 5 from the U.S. Consul General. Mr. Hanson also acknowledg-



ed the receipt of L. 47 from various sources. On 25th May, the Government Relief Commission for affording aid to the sufferers in the famine-stricken districts in Asia Minor, held a further meeting at the Porte, under the presidency of Sadoullah Bey, first dragoman of the Imperial Divan. The following interesting letters appeared about this time in the *Levant Herald*:

Sir,

It is a great satisfaction to the few English residents who have been doing what they could individually to mitigate the sufferings of the famine, stricken population here, to learn that the true state of affairs is beginning to be realized in Constantinople, and that so many have responded generously to your appeal for help and succour to send to these starving thousands.

From the correspondence in your weekly issue of 13th inst., as well as from the queries addressed to us direct, we gather that there would still be many willing to contribute to the above fund, and we therefore send a few details of the present distress for publication in your columns, so as to give some idea of the real state of matters as well as information as to what measures have been taken to mitigate it.

Though the distress in Angora itself is very great, it is no so apparent or so painful as in the numerous villages situated from three to twenty miles from town. The Christian communities being numerous and somewhat organized, those belonging to them by some means or other keep living, but the numerous sales by auction of well-worn household furniture, and whole families leaving for Constantinople, indicate only too clearly with what severity the high price and scarcity of provisions has pressed upon the struggling poor. So far as we are aware, no deaths from famine have occurred among those communities, but the condition of the villagers is very different. They are at all times a patient, hard-working, poverty-stricken

race, and yet they cling to their miserable mud-cabins until every possible means of subsistence has been exhausted. In many of these hamlets, as the last resource, they have collected and eaten *grass* mixing it with the miserable remains of wheat or barley left them, with the inevitable result of madness and exhaustion putting an end to their sufferings. One village, called Tabanly has been almost depopulated in this way.

In other places where, matters have not quite reached this tragic stage, the villagers have left *en masse*, and made the best of their way to town. Amongst many others the villages of Assi-Yozgat, Derishlik and Yenishench have been deserted in this way. In the two former, out of 200 houses each, only 20 25 remain partially inhabited.

Such is the condition of the groups of starving wretches who every day crowd into Angora with the vague hope of being relieved by private charity; their strength, barely sufficient to drag their enfeebled limbs so far, soon fails them, and they are to be seen lying about the streets in the last stages of exhaustion. Previous to any measures of relief being commenced the number of deaths on one occasion was as high as 20, but from the best information we can obtain the daily average does not now exceed 7 or 8 per day. The most distressing part of all this is that often these unfortunates have reached the last stage of prostration, and they sink just when help has reached them, and the best-meant endeavours to revive them only hastens the catastrophe. As one instance, of which hundreds might be given, take that of a family (found by a resident here early one morning in the street where they had passed the night) consisting of a father, two lads, and the mother with an infant a few weeks old on her breast; they were all so famine-stricken that they looked more dead than alive, but with a little soup carefully administered they were brought round gradually with the exception of the father and bread-winner who was unable to swallow, and died in spite of all the efforts that could be made to save him. Most of the famine-stricken villages are to the west and south of the town, but northwards there are also many



in the greatest extremity, especially Keskin and Kallyjik, but there is no getting at these places from Angora for want of draught animals, but they could be reached and relieved from Constantinople through the port of Ineboli on the Black Sea.

Such are a few details of the state of things here, but the means of mitigating the distress are undoubtedly inadequate. The local government has set apart a khan large enough to accommodate 1,400 people, and made great profession of making abundant provision, securing medical attendance, etc., but as sometimes happens with such enterprises the performance has come much short of the intention. It seems only to have concentrated the misery, and the poor wretches within make frantic efforts to escape from what they find to be only another sort of prison. The place contains at present about 600 children, 500 women, and 300 adult males; the rations are 300 drams of black bread for adults per day and 200 drams for children. Something like prison « skilly » is also prepared daily for the sick. Since this place was opened the deaths have been from 4 to 6 per day, and as no attention is paid to sanitary arrangements the stench is awful, and the probabilities are it will become a hotbed for epidemics. Dr. Casparini, an Italian doctor here, gives it as his opinion that such bread as they are having in their present weak condition is enough of itself to bring on dysentery.

Another and more successful means of relief is in the shape of a large khan which has been secured in the middle of the market place, and here from 300 to 500 people receive every day one substantial meal of rice pilau and wholesome bread. For those too exhausted for this solid fare soup is prepared. The applicants for this relief change every day, but all are alike necessitous. No distinction of creed or nationality is made in distributing—the most miserable have the best chance, but as a rule the preference is giving to famishing women and little children. This soup-kitchen (as it may be called) has been the means of saving many lives. It has been continued now for 20 days, and it is to keep it going that we earnestly appeal to the English-speaking community in Constantinople.

We are encouraged to make this further appeal by the libe-

rality already shown, for to feed so many for two months more till the harvest is secured, it is evident that further contributions will be required. We undertake the responsibility of expending the food or money forwarded to us, and will report from week to week in the columns of the *Levant Herald* what amount of relief has been administered and the phases of the famine as they occur.

Donations of wheat, flour, and rice, are useful, but money is of course the most readily available, as now that the markets have been thrown open the food required can be bought on the spot. Meanwhile the greatest difficulty is found in bringing up stores from Ismidt; the Government having impressed some mule-trains to bring up public stores, the mule-teers have taken fright, and to save themselves from compulsory and unprofitable business, leave the district altogether; but that is a state of matters that will soon be modified, for we hope soon to bring on the flour, etc., now awaiting transport at Ismidt, and contributors may count upon the undersigned doing all in their power to expend the donations entrusted to them judiciously.—We remain, Sir, etc.,

EDWIN THOMSON.  
GAVIN GATHERAL.

British Consular Agency,  
Angora, May 22.

Sir,

Will you kindly acknowledge in the *Levant Herald* the following subscriptions to the Famine Fund received by me this day from Messrs. C. S. Hanson and Co. :

May 21	M. G. H. Clifton...	L.T.	5.50			L.T.
"	" Dr. Patterson....	"	2.—	May 27	P. Ziegler and Co	
"	" 22 George Jacob....	"	2.—		Manchester...	22.—
"	" 23 Sir Philip Francis	"	5.—	"	27 Sir Philip Francis	6.50
"	" 25 Loge Maconnique			"	29 Rev. W. Schauff-	
"	Bulwer.....	"	11.—	"	fler, D.D. ....	6.—
"	" 26 British Employés			"	29 John Crabtree,	
"	at the Arsenal....	"	23.90	"	Esq., Bradford	11.—
"	" 26 J. Goodenow. . .	"	5.—	"	Anonymous ..	1.1
"	" 26 Embassy Chapel					
"	Offertory.....	"	9.—			
		L.T.				L.T. 114.58



I take this opportunity to acknowledge the great assistance we have received from the governor of the Kastamboul vilayet, Ali Pasha, who on every occasion has helped us to get the supplies sent forward with the utmost despatch and otherwise seen to the care of the convoys.

We are now baking in Tchangura 730 okes of bread daily, and in Angora besides bread, some 300 of the worst cases are receiving daily rations of good soup. Telegrams, to the 27th, report the number of villagers flocking into Angora in search of food as daily on the increase, and every day makes it more apparent, that the poor must depend entirely on external help till the harvest, and even, if that is as abundant as the present state of the crops gives promise of, there will still be a great deal of suffering, for many of the poor had neither seed corn left nor bullocks to plough with, after the winter had passed.

I am, etc.,

JOHN R. THOMSON.

Stamboul, May 29.

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Sir,

The Rev. Mr. Tracy of Marsovan, to whom, from the small sum at my disposal, I had sent 40 liras, replies as follows under date of May 42 :

The ten liras you sent were a most opportune assistance. We were giving and giving out of our own purses. I had resolved, if necessary, to become bankrupt rather than see my fellow-beings perish with starvation. When those ten liras came I felt like falling on my knees to thank God. And now we are caring for the very worst cases, the actually starving, who are to be numbered by hundreds in this place alone ! I give out tickets marked « one oke bread » in English ; the bakers accept these, and I settle with them. You have no conception of the miseries of the famine. To the south whole villages are being depopulated ; they pour out their famished inhabitants, who come in troops upon us — haggard, ragged, emaciated beggars, some of them almost in a dying condition when they get here. And we see the heavens again becoming brass and the earth

iron—there is appalling fear of the repetition of last year's dearth! If we have a failure of crops again this year in Asia Minor, unless the benevolent world wakes up, the people must perish by scores of thousands. And, heaviest of all, the animals have died, so that there is no mode of conveyance for supplies. Freight from Samsoun to this city (Marsovan), which is ordinarily 60 paras a *batman*, is now 7 to 40 piastres. All classes are praying for rain night and day.

It is a comfort to know that after the date of this letter rain is reported to have fallen in all parts of the interior.

The Rev. M. Farnsworth of Cesærea, to whom four weeks ago I sent 25 liras, writes under date of May 14, as follows:

A region at least 200 miles squares is now suffering from actual starvation. Thousands of the inhabitants fled before winter came on to the regions to the south-east, but the great mass were unable to get away. The number of beggars that throng this city and the larger towns is immense, and their condition very terrible. We are constantly giving money or bread at our door, and our hearts are pained at the very sight of the sufferers. The worst of all is that, while the country is almost destitute of all kinds of food, the future is yet more alarming. No rains. Burning south winds, clouds promising rain only to tantalize the starving people. Still it is not too late for a good crop. Many thanks for the money. We decided to use 5 liras in Cesærea, 5 in Yozgat, 5 in Soongoorloo, Alendjé, and Indjirli, and 40 in Ak-Serai and Nigdé.

Five or ten liras for distribution in money or food in one of the above-mentioned towns seems a very little sum, but to the starving even this amount of aid is of great account.

Let me add that on Wednesday last telegraphic orders were given to Mr. Farnsworth to expend 25 liras more.—I am, etc.,

G.

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Considerable progress was made as this time in the subscriptions obtained by the Turkish Relief



Commission the *Levant Herald* of 1st June states as follows :

A letter from Crete of the 25th of May announces that a subscription organised throughout the island by Raouf Pasha, the governor-general, on behalf of the sufferers in the famine-stricken districts of Asia Minor, had up to that date realised a sum of 20,000 piastres (about LT. 180). A Smyrna letter states that LT. 400 have been collected in that city for the same charitable purpose. The amount encashed by the Turkish Relief Commission in Stamboul now exceeds LT. 42,000. A group of 1,000 napoleons has been sent on to Constantinople by the governor-general of the vilayet of the Danube, and a sum of LT. 300 has been received from the town of Adrianople.

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On the 2nd June Sir Philip Francis acknowledged receipt of LT. 50 from Sir Henry Elliot, her Majesty's ambassador, as a contribution to the Relief Fund, and the following leading article appeared in the *Levant Herald* :

It may reasonably be hoped that the general scarcity which has this year fallen upon the whole of the eastern half of the Ottoman Empire will not be regarded by the Government merely as a visitation of Providence beyond the range of human foresight, and beyond the preventive power of human resource. The famine has fallen upon one of the most fertile countries in the world ; a country which, with the rudest husbandry, yields of wheat from ten to twelve fold, and which nature designed to be the granary of distant countries, where soil and climate are less genial, and where

all the arts of scientific husbandry must be lavished to coax a grain crop out of the indolent earth. Why was this scarcity? and how could such scarcity degenerate into actual famine—into starvation, where thousands of broad acres had yielded their fruit, and the wants of the people did not soar beyond the sustenance actually necessary to support life? These questions the Government will no doubt submit to the examination of a Special Commission. Such a disaster as has fallen upon the country is far too grave to be passed over as though it were the result of atmospheric accident, calling for certain violent and extraordinary remedies, but of no serious import to the Empire, in its aspect as an economic entity dependent for its existence upon the efficient working of all its vital organs. One of these organs, and that the most important, has entirely failed this year. The failure came late, so that, in a fiscal sense, the Empire did not feel that it had broken down. The tithe was collected, as tithes are collected, irrespective, in a great measure, of the circumstances of the contributors; and then, a few weeks later it was found that the great agricultural class, the backbone of the finance of the country, the class which contributes, directly, one-half—and more—of the whole revenue of the Empire, was stripped stark naked, and had nothing to feed upon till the crops of next season came into store, and for these there was no seed. It would seem that, in the districts which have suffered most, the famine threat was sounded many months ago. Local traders foresaw the scarcity, and the consequent dearness of breadstuffs, and they took measures betimes to lay in a supply, while yet the tracks, which form the sole means of communication in Turkey, were practicable for beasts of burden. With an amount of ignorance, which makes one shudder on reflecting that such, neither more nor less, is the wisdom of the provincial administration



of Turkey, the local authorities forced the importers to sell at unremunerative prices. For a brief period the famine was held at arm's length. But the importers had learned their lesson. Their perfectly honest commercial gains were taken from them ; they were fairly warned that the first principles of trade were not understood by the men to whose keeping the Porte entrusted the welfare of thousands of heavily taxed subjects, and they kept thenceforth aloof, paralysed by the hopeless stupidity of those whom the Porte is pleased to style «governors.» The grain they brought was eaten—eaten more or less cheaply. Then the winter came. The tracks were passable no longer ; the afflicted districts were shut in by torrents, by snowdrifts, by the spreading of marshes and the swelling of rivers ; no more importation was possible. The ordinary laws of supply and demand having been set at defiance, demand only remained, and there was no supply. Then became manifest the terrible fact that there could be no supply. The Government had never thought it worth while to help the taxpayers by giving them roads ; the local governors had ingeniously stopped the natural course of trade which the position suggested ; and there lay the population of Asia Minor locked up in the recesses of its fertile valleys, cut off from the rest of the world with a few bags of seed-corn, and starvation to follow. They ate the seed-corn ; and then they tried to sustain life with all sorts of rubbish. But death was not to be denied, and death stalked into the place which governmental mismanagement had prepared.

We do not wish to dwell upon the painful famine scenes which ensued. We do not bring forward the negligence of the Government in the matters of roads for the sake of throwing blame upon it. We do not stigmatise the arrant ignorance of the meddling governor for the sake of criticising what is beneath criticism, or of condemning a functionary for

whose ignorance the Porte, who made him a governor, is wholly responsible. On the contrary, we confine ourselves to this one instance of many similar. It serves as an example sufficient for the useful purpose we have in view. All we desire to do is to bring out the matter as plainly and clearly as we may, so that the lessons, which this sad episode in Turkish history ought to teach, may not be lost upon its rulers. These lessons, as we read them, are—first, looking to the exceeding wide spread of the scarcity, that the uttermost farthing has been extracted in taxation from the agricultural classes, and that the Government must relieve them by lightening their fiscal burdens, and that promptly and largely ; secondly, that all expenditure on armament, barrack building, decorative works, military operations in Yemen, and every other superfluity should be suspended until every province has at least one good road practicable all the year round, communicating with the seaboard ; thirdly, that all provincial governors,—mudirs, caïmacams, mutessarifs, and valis should be men educated specially for those offices. As matters now stand, the mudirliks are chiefly refuges for superannuated *chiboukjees*, or other similarly qualified persons, who have no knowledge whatever befitting the offices which they hold. The whole system of provincial government needs reorganisation. The Turkish Empire lives, not by the capital, but by the provinces. The capital contributes little to the fisc ; it is the provinces which ultimately pay even the customs duties received at the capital. The Government *must*, therefore, as a measure of self-preservation protect the provincial industry, which gives it its vitality, or the whole system will collapse, and ruin will come while all the world is being told that the country is prosperous. The prosperity of the country must not be maintained in theory only, it must be made a fact, and a reorganisation of the system of provincial government is the

first step towards the realisation of that fact. The mudirliks ought to be filled by well educated young men as a preparation for their advancement to the post of caïmacam, and after that to the higher offices of mutessarif and vali. These three are the chief lessons of the famine.

In conclusion, let us remark that it may be salutary for the Porte to reflect upon the warmth of British sympathy with the sufferings of the famine-stricken people, and the activity of British assistance in endeavouring to alleviate their sufferings. Englishmen obey in this only the dictates of humanity, and only seek reward in the success of their endeavours. But still the service is none the less true for being free and disinterested, and it proves the vitality of a sentiment which, it may be hoped, Turkey will never come to scorn. Yet another reflection may be profitable. Foreign charity is called to aid a large section of a suffering people on whom the sunlight of prosperity has never shone, but whose sinew and sweat painfully sustain the gorgeous fabric of the Ottoman Empire. Seeing this, and seeing that no adequate special cause has called forth the present misery, the Turkish statesman may usefully inquire why starvation is so close to the national door? why the people who do all have *nothing*? And it will aid his research if he contrast the splendour under his eye, for which the labourer pays, with the picture of the labourer who has paid for it dying by the roadside, not a hundred miles away, for want of a morsel of bread!

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On the 6th of June, the *Levant Herald* announced that :

Her Imperial Highness Fatimé Sultana, niece of the Sultan, has sent a contribution of LT. 500 to the Stamboul Commis-



sion for the relief of the sufferers. The governor-general of the vilâet of the Danube forwarded to Constantinople at this time a second remittance of about LT. 650, in addition to 1,000 napoleons previously sent. A sum of LT. 300 was raised by public subscription in Bosnia. The Porte telegrams announced the despatch to Cesaræa of 42,000 okes of wheat from Malatia and about 44,000 okes of flour from Ismidt.

At the same time Sir Philip Francis acknowledged receipt of the following further subscriptions for the Asia Minor Famine Fund : —Mr. T. Fiott Hughes, Oriental Secretary of her Majesty's Embassy, LT. 5 ; Mr. W. Jew, British Postmaster (third subscription), LT. 2 ; Anonymous, 10s.

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The following letters appeared about this time in the *Levant Herald* :

ANGORA, May 27.

The famishing population here has had some respite during this week owing to the arrival of Abdul Rahman Pasha, the new governor, on Monday. For two days previously, the issue of flour was largely increased, the bakers were kept at work all day and all night long, and for the first time for many months the bakeries had stock in hand, and were no longer besieged by crowds having to be kept in order by soldiery. An arrival of a camel-caravan from Ismidt laden with wheat has also had a good effect, and the price has, consequently, fallen from 600 piastres to 480 piastres per kileh, or from 7 to 5½ piastres per oke. Notwithstanding this temporary alleviation, however, the crowds of starving villagers still continue to come in, and Mr. Thomson's soup kitchen issues day by day 400 rations. Those attended to by the local government at the «kishla» (barracks) have greatly increased in number since I wrote last, and now number 2,500 souls, amongst whom epidemic dysentery had broken out, and their condition was miserable in the extreme ; but the new governor showed his humanity and good sense by paying his first visit there, and at once

gave orders for improved food and a supply of bedding. Instead of being herded promiscuously together, as they were before, the sexes are now separated, and a room set apart as a hospital for the sick and dying.

The usual ceremony took place yesterday at the Serail, when the Sultan's firman was read appointing the new vali. His excellency read a speech afterwards, setting forth with all that amplitude of which Turkish is so susceptible, — how his heart had been filled with grief at the miserable condition of the people, and that it would be his first care and special service to mitigate the horrors of the famine, and restore prosperity and plenty. There was much cannon-firing and many loud and fervent *amins* after the address ; but just as the crowd began to disperse, a long string of stretchers passed from the barracks carrying the corpses to burial of those who had died during the day, forming a sad contrast to the pasha's eloquent and sanguine periods.

The figures of the sheep and goat tax are now available. For the twelve districts composing the province they are as follows : Mohair goats (1873), 859,932, (1874) 363,298 ; common goats and sheep (1873), 4,086,734, (1874) 486,399 ; revenue from both sources, (1873), 8,449,755, (1874), 2,740,881 piastres. These figures require no comment, and fully bear out the estimate formed of the frightful mortality in my correspondence during the winter.

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Another Angora correspondent writes on May 27 :—

The condition of the people is at present somewhat improved as an immense effort has been made by the local authorities to have things *couleur de rose* in honour of the Pasha's arrival. The new *vali* was duly installed yesterday and his first public proceeding was a highly popular one, viz., to visit personally the Government barrack where upwards of 2,000 of the starving villagers are undergoing a sort of semi-imprisonment. They were all huddled together and only half or badly fed, and he put all that right at once.

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A Castamboul correspondent writes on the same date :

Sir,—The newspapers which arrive here from the capital contain distressing accounts of the famine now raging in the provinces of Koniah, Angora, and Castamboul. Judging from the reports which reach us the state of affairs in the two first named vilaëts must indeed be terrible. As regards the vilaët of Castamboul, some good information derived from trustworthy sources will, no doubt, be read with interest; such information I am in a position to give you.

The province of Castamboul is, as far as regards the scarcity, no better off than the two neighbouring vilaëts ; but the munificent gifts contributed to the famine fund by the Government, by State officials of all ranks, and by the Galata merchants, have to a great extent mitigated the suffering and raised the spirits of the country-people. The flour sent through Mr. J. R. Thomson has also arrived ; one half of it has been sent to Tchanguora and the other half will soon follow in the same direction together with a supply of provisions sent from Constantinople under the charge of Ahmet Bey, the new *mutessarif* of Tchanguora. The transport of grain continues to be very difficult.

Tchanguora is not the only district in this province that has been tried by the famine. The districts of Kalaidjik, Denekmaden, and Iskilip are also suffering great distress ; the inhabitants of the two former *sanjaks* live upon the provision sent to them from Tchanguora. The Famine Fund Committee would do well to give some assistance to the Caza of Iskilip, whose famished inhabitants are flocking to this city. The governor-general has lodged them in the garrison barracks where they are supplied with daily rations. To meet the expense thus involved, recourse has been had to a public subscription ; but this resource must soon fail, for the town is not in a position to support much longer the expense of feeding all the hungry people whose numbers are swelling day by day,

Harvest prospects, I am happy to say, are brightening, rain having fallen in abundance during the last three weeks. — I am etc.,

M. O. O.

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FURTHER SUBSCRIPTIONS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE LEVANT HERALD

Sir,

Will you kindly acknowledge in the *Levant Herald* the following subscriptions to the Famine Fund handed to me this day by Sydney La Fontaine, Esq. :—

Messrs. John Foster and Sons, Bradford	Lt.	444.—
» Thomas and Cook, Liverpool	»	27.75
» J.L.Bowes and Brother, Liverpool	»	27.75
» J.C.Harter and Co., Manchester	»	40.—
» Thomas G. Lindsay, Esq., Belfast	»	2.20
		<hr/>
		Lt. 208.70

— I am, etc.,

Stamboul, June 3.

JOHN R. THOMSON.

Sir,

Will you kindly acknowledge in the *Levant Herald* the following contributions to the famine Fund paid to me this day by the Imperial Ottoman Bank from—

Mr. J. C. Lane .....	LT.	3
Capt. Parent .....	»	22
		<hr/>
		LT. 3.22

I enclose for your perusal and publication, in whole or part, if you wish it, a letter from my agent in Koniah. I consulted with Sir Philip Francis about sending help to the places named in Mr. Jackson's letter, and, upon his suggestion, have this day telegraphed to Koniah to expend LT. 400 in relief in Eskil, Inevi, etc. Telegrams from Angora report a considerable amelioration of the distress in that city, but in many of the smaller towns and villages the suffering is still very great, and more help is needed.—I am, Sir, etc.,

Stamboul, June 5.

JOHN THOMSON.

Dear Sir,

In my last letter I gave you a general idea of the state of the country between Ismidt and this place, to which I fear I can now add but little. As I then explained to you the crops as far as Kara-Hissar were in excellent condition, abundant but not excessive rains had brought everything well forward, and even were no more to fall I would say the harvest is secure. Moreover, the people have sown much more than usual, so that, unless something entirely unforeseen occurs, the prospects for the year are very bright. Wheat, barley, bread, etc., were always to be found in almost any quantity and although certainly dearer than usual nothing like great scarcity was to be seen.

Between Kara-Hissar and Koniah the crops are also in good condition but need rain. Last Thursday night some heavy showers fell, which no doubt did great good, but since then we have had none and for the last two days a strong sirocco has prevailed, which I fear will tend greatly to dry everything up and make rain a more absolute necessity than ever.

The scarcity in Koniah itself during the winter was very great, but his Highness Essad Pasha had taken the precaution to store up a large quantity of grain, which was supplied to the *ekmekdjis* in such manner that the price of bread in the town never exceeded two piastres the oke. To the poor, who had not the means of buying, half an oke per head was distributed each day gratis. Everything is now much changed for the better, and no trace of dearth is visible. Bread at two, meat at from seven to eight piastres the oke, best flour at twenty-two, inferior at eighteen piastres the batman (seven okes), can be bought in any quantity. Wheat at fifty and barley at forty piastres per Stamboul kileh are also abundant.

That the mortality among the flocks in the neighbourhood of Koniah and Nigdeh has been very great may be seen from the fact that the number of animals counted for taxation is this year less in the former by about seventy-five per cent., and in the latter district by about eighty-four per cent. than last year. Sparta, Burdur and Tekké have suffered much less; the decrease being about sixteen, five, and four per cent. respectively.

I have been to-day requested by high authority to write to the

*Levant Herald* to draw attention to the great distress now prevailing in the neighbourhood of Eskil, Inevi, In-souyu, etc., where the people are really dying from starvation, having neither bread, nor money, nor even seed to sow. I am requested to say that if by any means a grant of money could be made towards helping this district out of the fund being raised in Stamboul, it would be very acceptable. As wheat and flour can be found in abundance here, it would not be necessary to send such from Constantinople, but a money order would be a great boon. Please do your best to help us. If I hear anything further of interest I will again write you.—Meanwhile, I am, etc.,

W. E. JACKSON.

Koniah, May 28.

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TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

Sir,

I have learnt that you are organising a subscription for the sufferers from famine in Asia Minor (Mussulmans and Christians). I send you my offering in postage stamps. Receive, I beg, the assurance of my high consideration.

Nevers, May 3.

PARENT,  
Capt. 29th Regiment.

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In the *Levant Herald* of 9th June appeared the following :

Sir Philip Francis acknowledges a subscription at Adrianople of 904 1/2 piastres towards the Asia Minor Famine Fund, received through Mr. Dupuis, Her Majesty's vice-consul in that city.—According to advices from Ismidt, 2,500 camels are now engaged in the transport of grain from that seaport to Angora, and it is intended to increase the number shortly to 3,000. The camels will be told off in small caravans, and in this manner it will be easy to make daily remittances of grain from Ismidt to the distressed districts.

At the bi-weekly meeting of the Council of Ministers held on



Sunday last at the Porte, under the presidency of the Grand Vizier, the Stamboul Commission for the relief of the famine in Asia Minor reported that 150,000 okes of flour were on the eve of being despatched to the suffering districts from Constantinople, and the Grand Vizier announced that he had received a telegram from Abdul Rahman Pasha, governor-general of Angora, dated June 4, which apprised his Highness of the arrival of 100,000 okes of cereals at Cesarea from Diarbekir. Of this grain, 40,000 okes were left at Cesarea, and the remainder had been distributed between the towns of Kirsheir and Kiskin, where the pinch of famine was very severely felt.

While the sad story of the famine in Asia Minor will naturally awaken at the Porte strong feelings of regret that the great question of providing means of communication in that part of the Empire has never received anything like its due share of attention, the reports which come to hand from the European provinces, where a beginning has been made towards providing means of transport, are calculated to remove all doubt which may yet exist in the minds of the men in power, and to point to the construction of railways as one of the most imperative and most pressing duties of the Government. The point which we most desire to keep in view, and to impress upon the authorities, is that the famine was not a calamity in the same sense as the sheep murrain was a calamity. The mortality among the sheep and goats of Angora, which, in a few weeks, stripped that province of 60 per cent. of its pastoral wealth, presents itself to the mind as a visitation which could not have been foreseen or prevented. But the case of the bread famine is altogether different: there is no analogy whatever between the two disasters. Against the one, human knowledge suggests no precautions which could have prevailed; while the other is the immediate result of neglecting to provide the country with the appliances which are essential to its prosperity at all times, and which constitute the only

safeguard against the ravages of famine when the local production of breadstuffs proves insufficient for local wants. There could have been no famine if the country had been adequately provided with roads and railways. We pray the Government to reflect upon this truth, and to consider the great responsibility of what has occurred. This responsibility does not rest upon this present Government. No; that responsibility belongs chiefly to the past, and none of it would attach to the present generation of Turkish rulers if it were manifest that they had wholly cast off and rejected the system of their predecessors, of which the consequences have been shown in the loss of a hundred thousand lives, and in long weeks of agonised suffering of millions who passed through all the fearful stages of famine till relief came and snatched them from the jaws of death. But if the responsibility of what has been belongs to those who no longer hold the helm of public affairs, the responsibility of what will be rests upon the present pilots of the State ; and doubly great is that responsibility, because the lessons of to-day plead so plainly and yet so eloquently, that their teachings cannot be mistaken. On the one hand, we have seen in Asia a population perishing of famine while all around it there was plenty. No farther off than Trebizond there was abundance of grain, but for all purposes of utility it might as well have been in Central Africa, for there was no means of carrying it to the spot where it was wanted. On the other hand, turning to European Turkey, the effects of the facilities of transport afforded by the railways are apparent. It is but a short time back that the condition of the province of Salonica was the constant theme of local lamentation. The consular reports told only a dismal tale of its isolation, of the depression of its commerce, of its subjugation to brigand bands, and all the rest of the evils which arise out of social stagnation just as

mephitic vapours rise out of stagnant water. A railway is made there. The country starts into life, the barriers which limited the vision and cramped the action of the people disappear, and the consul is able to write, as we could wish to see all consuls in the Empire able to write, of the expanding prosperity of the country. The construction of railways and other public works, says the consul, has stimulated the active and enterprising spirit of the commercial and industrial classes. Comparing the imports and exports before the railway was constructed with those of the year after its opening, it is seen that the exports increased by one-third, and that the *imports more than doubled* ; in other words, the labour of the people was made profitable, and they were able to afford more of the comforts of life. Now, we would earnestly entreat the present Ministry seriously to consider the respective significance of the two pictures to which we point, and to take a more practical view of the requirements of the country than some of their predecessors have done. The future of Turkey depends not on her fleets and armies, but on the development of her trade. And how is trade to be developed ? By providing every material facility for its expansion, and by offering every inducement to foreign capital to seek employment in the country. They have not to look far for the proof—it lies under their eyes ; and though they might mistrust such proof were it shown in foreign countries possessing different institutions from those with which Turkey is blessed, they cannot misread or discredit that which their own prospects offer to them.

Unhappily there is still a small party which, believing, and that quite conscientiously, that Turkey can live by herself, would fain shut foreign capital and foreign enterprise out of the country. The influence of this party, although not predominant, is nevertheless sufficient to retard the frank



adoption of a progressive policy by the Porte. To those who hold this view we would point out that the theory became untenable as soon as Turkey went abroad to look for money. Turkey has now a large foreign debt, the tendency of which is rather to increase than to diminish. Out of its unaided resources Turkey cannot pay the interest on this foreign debt. Tax as much as she may the primitive, pastoral, and agricultural pursuits of the people, she cannot raise from those sources alone the ten millions over and above the cost of government and national defence, which she is under engagement to pay annually to her foreign creditors. The national financial engagements are such that the development of the latent resources of the country becomes a necessity in order to satisfy them, and in proportion as the progress of that development is rapid and effectual, or tardy and partial, so will the burden of national debt sit more lightly or more heavily upon the country. Logically, therefore, until the foreign debt is paid off, the policy of national monasticism would, if followed out, have an effect precisely the contrary of that which its apostles have in view. Instead of rendering the country independent, it would keep it in a perpetual and hopeless state of financial bondage, its military strength would dwindle to a shadow, and its moral influence to a name. Let it be hoped, therefore, that the plain teaching of the lessons of famine in Asia and abundance in Europe, upon which we have dwelt, will not be obscured by theories which are the outcome of inexperience and mental indolence, and that as soon as the pressing question of finance is solved (as it seems in a fair way shortly to be), the Grand Vizier and his Cabinet will set to work with steady determination to give the country the full benefit of them.

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The *Levant Herald* of the 11th and 12th June report that :

An Armenian firm in Stamboul, having a branch house in Manchester, had opened a subscription here and in England for the relief of the sufferers in the famine-stricken districts in Asia Minor. which had realised a sum of upwards of LT. 800. Of this sum about LT. 460 was subscribed in Manchester, and the rest in Constantinople, principally by Armenian and German houses. — The Porte at this time received telegrams from the governor of Ismidt and from the governor-general of Diarbekir. The former annouced the despatch of flour from Ismidt to Angora and a number of other distressed localities in that direction, to the amount in all of about 55,000 okes. The latter reported the despatch of 43,000 okes of flour to Cesarea. From Ineboli 44 loads of provisions had been sent forward through Kastamboul to Tchangoura. As many as 5,000 camels and other beasts of burden were said to be employed at this period by the Government in the transport of cereals to the suffering districts from Ismidt, Diarbekir, and Erzeroum.

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June 16.

*The Distress in Anatolia.—Statistics of the Mortality of Goats and Sheep in the Province of Angora.*—Our Angora correspondent sends us a table of comparative figures for the years 1873 and 1874, showing the enormous mortality that has taken place amongst the flocks of the province since last autumn. From this table it appears that the number of mohair goats fell during the winter from 839,932 to 363,298. The loss amongst common goats and sheep was much more severe, the number falling from 1,086,731 to 486,399. The three districts of Yozgat, Kaisserieh, and Kirsheir are not included in this computation which is official, being taken from the «Sheep-Tax Ledger» of the local government. The district which comparatively suffer-

ed most is that of Nomadik, which lost *all* its flocks, consisting of 4,498 animals. The district of Kimanah hardly saved one twentieth of its flocks, whilst in that of Yokari-Cassaba they were reduced from 193,015 to 29,360. The district of Angora suffered less than most of the surrounding districts, losing only 1,195 animals out of 2,878. The estimated returns of the tax for the present year as compared with those of 1873, show a falling off of about two thirds. Last year the sum collected in taxation was 8,419,775 piastres whereas this year the estimated sum is only 2,740,881. The immediate loss to the peasantry is terrible ; to the treasury the direct loss will not be considerable, but in an indirect manner the disasters of the last few months will tell heavily upon the revenue, and it will be some years, probably, before the unhappy province regains to the full its fallen prosperity.

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*Levant Herald*, June 18 :

Angora, June 40.

At last the almost unprecedented winter has taken flight and for nearly a week there has been a succession of bright warm days. Previous to that the snow clung to the mountain ridges and frequent hailstorms made even the lower levels resume a wintry appearance. This moist spring, succeeded by such intense heat, has had the best effect on the growing crops, which promise well, though, the long continued cold will make the harvest late, and the heavy hailstorms have destroyed much of the fruit crop for which this district is so widely celebrated. As recently as the 18th of last month at Ak Dag in the district of Boghazliar, near Madan, four villagers with their flocks, out collecting «geven» a harsh root much used for fodder in the present scarcity, were completely overwhelmed in a wintry tempest. Two were frozen to death ere they could be reached or rescued ; the remaining two were found the following day and were restored with great difficulty by a native process always adopted in such cases which, though not very pleasant or savoury, is generally successful. The mode prescribed is to cover the patient to the neck in hot manure. A shepherd in



the same district, belonging to a village called Kizildjick, in following his herd encountered the same extraordinary tempest, and more than twenty of his herd were lost in the drift.

The distress in town has been somewhat aggravated since last advice by the local government having cleared the «kishla» (barracks) of all able to travel, and sent them back to their villages, where they were assured that provision would be made for them. Many of them, scarcely strong enough for the journey, linger about the towns, and Mr. Thomson fortunately finds himself able to increase both the number and quantity of daily rations so as to overtake this increased necessity. The scene at the distribution of this "English dole," as it may be called, though sad enough, is still interesting. Long before dawn a clamorous and impatient crowd gathers round the doors of "Kapanooney-Khan," where the distribution takes place, the general hunger being only stimulated by the bustle and preparation going on within. As soon as it is light enough the doors are thrown open and the crowd rush in pell-mell and soon fill the large square in the centre. There are long rows of huge "cazans," copper boilers filled with wholesome well-cooked "pilauf," and a table covered with a goodly array of bread. Authority is represented by half-a-dozen porters with big sticks who, for half an hour, have hard work to arrange the motley eager crowd. The men, who are all half blind or unmistakeably sick, and unable to work, with Moslem instinct range themselves apart and, in deference to European ideas, have to wait as patiently as they can till the other sex is served. The children and mothers with babies are put in the front rank—a cook, whose huge bulk shows he at any rate has not suffered from famine, flourishes his ladle as a signal that all is ready and the distribution begins. Plates are few and spoons or forks there are none. Corners of ragged little jackets, aprons, handkerchiefs, or even the fez is held up to receive the portion, and all are soon squatted on the ground and the food soon vanishes. Not a few, like Olive Twist, would fain "ask for more," but there are no complaints, and their own share devoured, the children scramble for every grain of rice that may have fallen to the ground. I wish those kind friends, whose bounty thus feeds

the hungry, could see the meagre famine-pinched faces that gradually relax into human likeness, especially the little ones, emaciated and shrunk to mere skin and bone, who stretch their small hands in trembling eagerness for the food they so much require. It would fill any heart with pity and stimulate the most selfish to do what was possible to lessen such wretchedness. There is soup prepared for those unable to take anything else, and then the crowd slowly disperses. On the Englishmen looking on many fervent blessings are invoked—"God give you more," "we pray for you," "long life to you," they cry as they file past, the women being especially effusive in this respect. This distribution is entirely for Moslems, mostly villagers, and the destitute of the town; after this is over a private house in the Christian quarter is thrown open, and from 80 to 100 women, mostly Armenians, are there relieved. These are allowed to take away a portion in addition to their own for the little ones at home. There are no less than 260 families so destitute that they require to be so fed from day to day, but they are in direct need of clothing as well as food, and it is to be hoped that the "Ladies' Dorcas Societies" of Constantinople will help in supplying this requisite of health and comfort. To any willing to assist these poor creatures to this further requisite, individual details will be supplied.

The railway works, begun here a year ago with so much spirit, are now entirely abandoned, the earthworks are in fact sinking into the earth from which they emerged, and the staff of English engineers has been dismissed and gone back to Constantinople. It is to be regretted that this much required enterprise should be so given up. The construction of an iron road, or a good road of any kind, is the first requisite of the province. It would not only develop immensely the commerce of the district, but would avert in future the terrible consequences of such a famine as has overtaken and so nearly depopulated and ruined what ought to be the richest and most prosperous part of Asia Minor.

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SIR,—Perhaps your readers will be interested in the following extracts from private letters received from Cæsarea and vicinity :

Cæsarea, June 5.—“Mr. F... is just starting for a visit to the poor starving people in the Bozook region. There need not be so much suffering if men were not so thoroughly corrupt. All the good flour is taken possession of, and only the poor miserable stuff, which the aghas have been hoarding up, is put in the market. I wish something might be done soon—representation made to the Government in Stamboul ; it seems as if such a state of things might be remedied. We have had very fine rains lately and this will do much good. We feel very thankful. Yesterday I saw a party leaving the Khan, going to Albustan ; the women and large children carrying their bedding on their back, and one poor camel carrying all their worldly goods. A great many come to our doors, and we keep a supply of bread on hand and give to each one that we know is not a beggar by trade.”

Another letter dated Tallas (near Cæsarea), June 3rd, says :—  
“A woman came into the court this morning so weak that she would die in the court, but tea and soup revived her, and after half an hour, giving her some money, we saw her out of the door. She had two children with her and three more in the city hungry. She said she had had no bread for two days ; they came from the region of Angora and her husband died on the way. As Mr.—— came from the city one had just died near the burying ground.\*\*\* As long as there is bread in the house we cannot say no. S.——gave his whole baking yesterday and it was gone before night. The money that has been sent from Constantinople we distribute among the villages, but do not use it to give bread to those who come to our door. This morning, about 40 o'clock, as Nellie was feeding the beggars, she went to the door to latch it, and a man was lying opposite who asked her for bread. On giving it she asked him if he was sick. He said he was so weak from hunger that his strength was all gone. He had had nothing to eat yesterday. Just now an old man's strength gave out at our door and he fell flat in the court. Kouyoumdji Avedis and his son helped him to our steps in the shade, and Mrs. —— im-



mediately got him some pilaf and a cup of tea. He said he had had nothing to eat for three days. I had to come in and cry for him. The Protestants and whole families of Armenians from Elengé come to us for help. We often keep them a day or two and send them off with flour or money. We have cut off puddings, pies, and coffee from our tables.—A.... said to me just now, "If the rain had not come, we should all have been like these men." We turn none away but give to each a small piece of bread. Your tender heart would weep all the time if you were here. We are learning what "Give us this day our daily bread" means!

June 4th.—Another incident similar to yesterday's occurred to-day, only to-day's subject was a young man. We gave him medicine and soup, and he soon revived. Hadji has just come in from Romidigin and says some 20 or 25 rayahs have died in that village from starvation."—I am, etc.,

Stamboul, June 16.

H. D.

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On the 4th July the *Levant Herald* reported as follows :—

The governor of Ismidt telegraphed to the Porte on the 2nd inst., that 450,000 okes of flour, despatched from Constantinople on Monday last for the famine-stricken districts, had been received at Ismidt and despatched at once to their destination by 750 camels and upwards of two hundred horses and other beasts of burden; 440,000 okes of flour being intended for Angora, and the remaining 10,000 for Mihalitch.

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Towards the end of that month the *Levant Herald* published the three following letters from the Rev. Mr. Farnsworth, which give a graphic

description of the situation of the famine stricken districts. The writer heads them "The Famine in Cæsarea and the White Mountain."

SIR, —Through the kindness of English and American friends in Constantinople, acting through Sir Philip Francis and J. R. Thomson, Esq., as their committee, it has been the privilege of the writer to do something to relieve the suffering of many in certain districts most fearfully smitten by the famine. These friends and many of your readers may be interested to see some account of the famine as the writer saw it in the regions just visited, to know of its severity, the means used for the relief of the people, also the prospects of the harvest, and how long the famine is likely to continue. Starting from Cæsarea, my course was northerly along the western slope of the Ak-Dagh, or white mountain region, *viâ* Roomdigin, Chandoor, Yertzily and Keofne, thence westerly to the city of Yozgat and from that place N.W. to Soongoorloo. Here turning S. we passed near the borders of the Keskin region, through the Salman and Mejidié Kazas, to Kir Sheher, and thence to Ak-Séraï. Here, changing our course to S.E., we visited Nigdé, and then turning N.E. we reached our place of departure, *viâ* Everek and the eastern slope of Mount Argeas, having been absent 22 days, and the aggregate travel amounting to 384 miles.

There is really a great deal of suffering from the lack of necessary food in Cæsarea and the large towns near that city. The same is true of Everek and of Nigdé, but when we compare these places with the other regions above named we feel that, as yet, they have hardly been touched by the famine. In all the villages, very many, probably much more than one half the population, are destitute of bread, and for many weeks have lived almost entirely on such wild herbs as they could gather in the fields and along the road sides. From the Ak-Dagh and the Bozook regions very many have fled to Sivas and regions to the east, and there beg their miserable living from door to door, while large numbers of the people from the Keskin and the Kir-Shehir regions have in the same way

thrown themselves upon Cæsarea and the surrounding towns, and the people from the vicinity of Nigdé have gone in crowds to the regions of Sarsus and Adana to secure a more honourable living by gleaning in the very rich grain fields of Cilicia. Thus this whole district is, in a great measure, depopulated. While these people thus become a great burden in the regions to which they have fled, their own houses and vineyards and fields go to ruin. Sad indeed is the destruction of houses. Built of mud, with earth roofs, they have a little timber that may be used for fuel. In many cases the owners, driven to the last extremity, tore down their houses before leaving them, and used the timbers for fuel or sold them to procure bread. Many others left their homes uninjured, but no sooner is a house deserted than the neighbours dig into the roofs for the timber. Multitudes of these people, were they now to return to their villages, would find their houses uninhabitable.

When we reached Yozgat we felt that we must have reached the heart of the smitten district. The public places were crowded so as to be almost impassable, like certain streets or squares of Constantinople or Galata on their market days. This crowd was composed almost entirely of half starved people from the surrounding villages; those not yet reduced to the greatest straits, but who have yet a copper kettle, a sheep, a bed, or a blanket to sell to procure a little bread. As I sat in the market, carts were constantly coming in loaded with timbers from the deserted houses of the poor villagers. Great as was the crowd I was assured that it had been much reduced in the last few days, as the Government had collected several hundred of the absolutely destitute into the unoccupied barracks at the border of the town, where they were receiving a daily allowance of bread.

Bad as was Yozgat, we found Soongoorloo still worse. This is a town of about 4,000 houses, and the residence of a *caï-macam*. The scenes here the past winter have almost, if not altogether, equalled the worst of the Persian famine. The governor told me that the statistics which they had gathered showed some 5,000 deaths from starvation in that Caza. Were those included who have come in from other districts, Salman,



Keskin, etc., and have died there, it would greatly swell, perhaps double, the list. In many cases hunger seems to have destroyed all the finer feelings of humanity. As I was assured by many of the inhabitants, bodies have been allowed to remain as many as four days in the streets and the dogs have partially devoured them. While this seems too bad to be true, I can yet hardly doubt it, for, while I sat conversing with the governor, I heard orders given for the burial of two bodies that had been lying at the edge of the town two days, already awaiting interment.

The people of the town, as well as strangers, have been driven to the greatest straits. Very many, formerly good liver, have sold almost everything from their houses to procure bread. Their selling and buying have both been at a ruinous rate. In the winter copper dishes were sold at six piastres the oke and the bread bought at eight, by weight only three-fourths as much bread as copper. In the severe cold many houses, I was told as many as 300, were torn down to get the timber for fuel. A friend of the writer, a silversmith, having sold nearly everything from his house, having also torn down such portions of the house as he could spare, then sold his shop. This brought him 330 piastres, and this sum furnished his family with bread, and nothing more, for just twelve days.

Leaving Soongoorloo the next place visited was Kaya Dibi in the Salman district, about 20 miles south of Soongoorloo. Here I dined with the *mudir* and the judge of the district, and from them learned some of the very worst facts that have come to my knowledge. In that village of 50 to 60 houses, I was assured that more than 400 persons had already died from starvation. One man with whom I conversed assured me that of his five sons four were already dead and the fifth could live but a very short time. Both the judge and the *mudir* are authority for the following facts. In that village, Kaya Dibi, a camel died in the stable, and was allowed to remain there forty days. When, at the end of that time, the stable was opened and the body dragged out, the people rushed to secure portions to eat. The *mudir* had it buried and the people dug

it up, and he was obliged to set a guard to keep them from it. Such as did eat of it died.

Many of the villages of this district are entirely depopulated, others are nearly so. The judge told me that about nine miles nearly west of Kaya Dibi, in the village of Beraklu, formerly containing some 400 souls, but 22 were left, and that in that village a body had already been awaiting interment ten days, and that people must be brought from other villages to perform this last rite of humanity. This same individual told me that in the village of Nefes Keui, five hours from Yozgat, which occupies the site of the ancient city of Tavia, in one room he found three little children, the oldest perhaps ten years of age; there, with, none to watch over them or to hear their last moans, the poor little things had died and there was none to bury them. All that I saw and heard in all my ride from Soongoorloo to Ak-Seraï, a distance of 126 miles, served to impress upon my mind the terrible severity of the famine. The Salman and Medjidié districts are peculiarly fine grazing districts, and one year ago were noted for their flocks, and especially for their Angora goats. Now they are almost literally a desert. In going from Medjidié to Boz-Tépé, a distance of 24 miles, we passed through or very near six villages. Of these, five were without an inhabitant, while the sixth had but three left out of thirty families. I passed just along the eastern border of the Keskin district and, from all that I could learn, that is as bad as what I saw, perhaps even worse. The cities of Kir-Shehir and Ak-Seraï are much like Soongoorloo, save that in Kir-Shehir the Government is making a liberal distribution of bread to the starving. I spent a Sunday in Ak-Seraï, and during those 24 hours at least four persons died from starvation. There may have been others, of whom I did not hear. In the villages between Ak-Seraï and Nigdé there is much suffering with a good many deaths, yet the destitution is not so great as in some other districts.

I hope at another time to tell you what is doing for the relief of these multitudes of starving people; also of the condition

of the crops, and the probable continuance of the famine.—  
I am, etc.,

W. A. FARNSWORTH.

Cæsarea, June 30.

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SIR,—In my letter of June 30th, I promised soon to tell you what is doing for the relief of the fearful suffering now existing, also of the prospects of the harvest and the probable continuance of the famine.

Your readers must know that this appalling calamity has not come upon the country without warning. In July of last year, in a note addressed to the *Levant Herald*, it was said :—" There must be liberal aid by the Government or by private individuals or there will be great suffering before the harvest of 1874." A few weeks later occurred the bread-riot at Yozgat. From many parts of the land there came notes of warning. The harvest had failed, and the people entreated that the grain in possession of merchants might not be carried away. From that time to the present it has been only the wilfully blind who did not see the coming evil. While the calamity has been greatly augmented by a most remarkably severe winter, for which of course, no officials can be blamed, the most natural precautions have, in many cases, been neglected. Against the earnest entreaties of starving men and women and despite their tears, large quantities of grain were carried from the Bozook regions, and the people left to die from hunger. As late as June 20th, 1873, when the fearful extent and severity of the drought was patent, I saw an immense caravan on its way to Samsoon, laden with grain bound from Constantinople. In some cases, as at Yozgat, it would seem that the grain merchants have been allowed a monopoly. Having got possession of all the grain in the region, two of the largest dealers promised to furnish bread at what seemed a reasonable rate, and this promise allayed any fears that the central Government may have entertained for the welfare of its subjects: then, working the ovens at a rate vastly below the demands of the place, prices were run up to ten times their usual figure. That this was unnecessary is evident from the fact that while Cæsarea



has a much larger population and, proportionately, a smaller amount of provisions were in store, prices only went up to about two and a half times their usual rate.

In cities like Yozgat, Soongoorloo and Ak-Seraï, efforts have been made to furnish bread at a reduced rate to certain portions of the people, but in all cases the residents have been the favoured ones, and the poor starving villagers, from whose fields the grain was taken, have been a prey to every extortion.

In some cases, as at Soongoorloo, there are certain ovens where the villagers can procure bread, but at an advanced price; in others, as at Ak-Seraï, though not absolutely forbidden to purchase, they do so with great difficulty, and policemen are often seen driving them away that residents may buy. In many places, villages as well as cities, some efforts have been made to relieve the destitute, but even *caïmakams* and *mudirs* seem to be most astonishingly ignorant of the nature of the help rendered, whether it is a loan or a gift. Take two or three examples. Some months ago the people of Roomdigin were informed that there was a certain quantity of wheat and of barley that they would have for the poor, but the members of the village council, consisting of Moslems and Rayahs, were required to give their signatures acknowledging the reception of such an amount. Surely this was most reasonable, but there was nothing to show whether they were to return this amount or not, and they dared not receive it, and a certain rich bey of this place took possession. Probably he holds it subject to the call of the donors. In Medjidié I found a quantity of grain just arrived and ready for distribution, so much to each person of the district, but security was required for future payment should it be called for. The *caïmakam* assured me that they could not give it without, and that all the poorest of the people would be unable to comply with the terms. Thus the poorest could have no help.

Nine miles north of Kir-Shehir is the village of Boz-Tépé, formerly a fine town of 450 houses, but now reduced to 50 families. The people here told me that they had been presented with barley to the amount of  $24\frac{1}{2}$  okes to each in-

dividual, but that they must take the same in the village of Kara-Magara, some ninety miles distant. When in Kir-Shehir I spoke to the *mutessarif* about it; he simply replied, "we are greatly troubled to procure transportation."

I am glad to say that some of the efforts at relief have been more successful. In Yozgat some hundreds of rations of bread were being distributed daily to the most destitute who were occupying the Government barracks. Through the beneficence of one individual, Arslan Bey, of Boghoz-keui, an effort had been made to distribute bread in Soongoorloo, but after a few days the experiment was given up. Here I gave the Government LT. 30 with which to supplement the contributions of Arslan Bey, and provision was made for the daily distribution of more than 300 rations. The *caïmacam* and the *mufti* both seemed fully to appreciate the very great distress of the sufferers and undertook the distribution of the bread with their own hands. In Kir-Shehir the Government seemed to be acting according to the necessities of the case. The *mutessarif* assured me their daily distributions of bread were for 5,000 persons, and the list was increasing. May other places, equally needy, soon have equally liberal aid! Up to June 20th no effort had been made to relieve the starving crowds that thronged the streets of Ak-Serai. The *caïmacam* had received orders for the enrolment of all the needy both in the town and in the villages of the district, and a sluggish beginning had been made, but the fact that multitudes were reduced to the greatest straits and that numbers were dying daily in the streets, seemed to have made little impression on the Government. When told that benevolent Englishmen in Constantinople and in other places were unwilling that people should starve in that way, and that aid to the amount of LT. 50 would be given to the most needy villagers (the residents being required to care for their own poor, little help could be secured elsewhere), they seemed quite dazed. Finally they understood the matter, and appeared very grateful and set about a new enrolment with vigour. When I called on the *mutessarif* at Nigdé and told him the sad condition of Ak-Serai, he immediately gave

orders that a special messenger be sent to that place with directions that LT. 400 be expended for the relief of the suffering without waiting for more formal action, which was to follow the reception of the records showing the amount of aid needed, and for which he was impatiently waiting.

On returning to Cæsarea I find that some effort has been made to relieve the destitute of this city and of the neighbouring towns, but the most needy are not reached, viz., the vagrants, those who have fled from their own destitute homes in the Keskin, the Kir-Shehir and the Bozook regions. It is these that require the most efficient attention of the Government, and are best entitled to the sympathy and aid of all benevolent people. I am very glad to add that within the last few days an effort is being made in behalf of this portion of the people, which, if successful, will be worthy of all praise. Our *mutessarif* tells me that they are to be sent, with an escort, to their respective districts, that a provision train is to accompany them, and that food is to be furnished them by the Government so long as they can do nothing for themselves. This is just what ought to be done, and I am glad to know that a beginning has actually been made. But one is alarmed at the thought of the possibility, not to say probability, of failure. Unless very efficient means of transportation be secured, and steady and prompt distribution be made, thousands on thousands of these people will return to their homes only to die of starvation. With proper effort these people can be saved and the smitten district may soon be again populous, and its hills and villages be again covered with grain fields and flocks and herds, but the work to be done is very great. More of this in another letter.—I am, etc.,

W. A. FARNSWORTH.

Cæsarea, July 6.

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SIR,—In previous letters I have spoken of the fearful famine that has so suddenly blighted a large portion of Asia Minor, also of the efforts that are being made to relieve the



sufferers. The most interesting and by far the most important question is—What aid must be given, and for how long a time must that aid be continued, in order to save this people and restore them again to their position as producers? Most naturally we think of them simply as destitute of bread. It is true that they are so, and it is a terrible fact, and yet it does not nearly cover the case. Were their flocks and herds left they might recover themselves, but these are almost totally destroyed. The mortality has been much greater in the districts that I have passed through than in the Angora and Koniah and other districts reported in your columns. In the little village of Saru Hamzalu, out of more than 4,600 sheep and goats, just one sheep and goat remain, as I was assured when there, and of 400 cows 2 remain. In the village of Hadgili, in the Salman district, from a flock of 4,200 sheep and goats, there are reported 8, and from another flock, in the same village, numbering 800, of which 700 were mohair goats, the same number, 8, is reported. These figures are more alarming than are those of the tax list, but unfortunately they are true. The error of the tax list comes in this way; the new list was made early in March, long before the end of the fearful winter. Many sheep and goats died after that list was made.

But these people are not only destitute of food and of flocks, they have no growing grain. When I started on my recent tour, June 6th, I supposed that the great thing would be to tide over the next two months. I still see that this is a difficult task, but I see very clearly what is far worse, viz., that the trouble is not to end, scarcely to be ameliorated, when the next harvest comes in. In all the regions that I have passed through, very little has been sown. The autumn was unfavourable and the early snows prevented late sowing. Before the fearful winter ended the seed was eaten and the oxen had died, so that the spring found the people helpless and destitute. Hence the mass of them saved nothing, and the harvest can bring them nothing.

But these items, fearful as they are, do not show the fulness of destitution. Multitudes of these people have no houses

to live in. They have, in some cases, torn them down with their own hands. In other cases they have sold them, and that for almost nothing. In many instances they have been destroyed by others, since they were left, and the winter must find them without any shelter.

It will be remembered that very many of these people, that is, nearly all those who have left their homes, have sold the last copper-dish, the last bed, the last blanket, so that, were there to be an abundant harvest and were prices to fall to the lowest figures reached in many years, still they would find it impossible to buy. The question may arise, can they not work and thus secure a living? Yes; if any body can be found to employ them; but who will or who can do that? It was hoped that the Government might employ some 15,000 or 20,000 on the great railroad that was to be constructed through this region from Angora to Cæsarea. Such a number, employed at a reasonable remuneration, would have furnished a living to 50,000 souls or even more, but this work is not begun and not one in twenty of the starving men can hope to find any employment by which they may secure a piece of bread in the next twelve months.

I am sorry to present so dark a picture, but the whole is not yet told. The prospect for the coming harvest is not good. We have said that the people who have been driven from their homes have no growing grain. Their brethren, who have managed to keep a foothold in their villages, are scarcely better off. In very few of the villages now suffering from the famine has one half the usual amount been sown, and the average of the whole region passed over in this journey, 384 miles, must be less than one fourth as much as is usually sown. But still worse, that which is sown will not give a good yield. In the Salman district, up to June 15th, there had been no rains, and the crop must be almost a perfect failure. In other regions the grain suffered much from the severity of the winter. In the whole distance from Nigdé to Cæsarea we saw scarcely a dozen fields that would be called *ordinarily* good. In nearly all this region the grain is very thin. When seen at a distance it looks well, but nearer inspection shows that a man must



thrust in his sickle several times to fill his hand. The weather is favourable and it is confidently hoped that it will fill well, but, at best, the yield in all this section of the country must be far below the immediate demands of the population, and there is no old grain, as there was last year, to supply the deficit.

In a very large proportion of this region *fruit* and *especially grapes*, form an important element in the income of the people. This year, though we do not say that there is "no fruit in the vine," we fear there will be little. In some places the vines were greatly injured by the severity of the winter. In others, the people, driven from their homes by the severity of the famine, have left their vines unpressed and entirely uncultivated, and the yield must be very imperfect. In other cases, as at Everak, the grapes have been seriously injured by late frosts, while in others, as at Nigd , the crop has been partially destroyed by hail.

It is evident that a famine so wide in extent and of such severity, as to be a great national calamity, has visited this land. No one who has not seen this region can fully appreciate the evil. Facts that are stated in this and preceding letters demonstrate the truth that we are not near the end, but rather that the very worst is to be feared. Many thousands have already perished. Thousands more are suffering the extremes of hunger, and the number of the sufferers, as would naturally be expected, increase rapidly. Many are destitute now who had a little flour or the means of buying a little bread a week ago. The area covered by the famine is increasing. We have said that, when compared with Yozgat, Soongoorloo and other places, C sarea and the surrounding towns can hardly be said to be touched by the famine. I am sorry to say that since writing I have learned of very severe suffering in our very midst. I learn that in one of our finest Greek villages a woman (resident) perished from hunger within a few days.

The extent of this calamity is so vast that all means which any benevolent individuals may be able to command seem as nothing when compared with the relief actually needed. Nothing but an efficient, steady, long-continued beneficence on



the part of the Government can preserve the lives of very many thousands, or prevent a large district of the empire being nearly depopulated. Not only does humanity protest against such a result, but political economy is alarmed at the *mere pecuniary* evil. Keskin has furnished the national treasury with some LT. 26,000 annually. If the loss is so much from that little district (it really ought to pay nothing this year), what must be the amount in all the 40,000 square miles covered by the famine ?

This population may be saved and all these districts may again become productive, but nothing but a tremendous and well sustained effort on the part of the Government can secure such results. The work begun by one *mutessarif*, viz., collecting the vagrants and sending them to their homes, feeding them on the way, can secure the speedy re peopling of the country. Once at their homes, they must be fed till the harvest of 1875. Even this would avail little unless seed corn and working oxen be furnished them so that they can sow in the coming autumn. Besides all these, they must be helped to clothing, beds and other necessary things, or many will die from exposure. They are now fit to become a prey to any epidemic.

While private beneficence stands appalled before so vast a necessity, it still becomes all truly benevolent people to do what they can to relieve this suffering. I gladly improve this opportunity to express my most hearty thanks and the thanks of my associates to our English and American friends in Constantinople and elsewhere, who have furnished us with LT. 450 to aid these sufferers. This help has caused many a starving soul to rejoice.—I am, etc.,

W. FARNSWORTH.

Cæsarea, July 7.

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In the beginning of August the subjoined letters were published in the *Levant Herald*, and formed

the subject of the leading article which follows them :—

SIR,—Respecting the famine in Asia Minor there are two points which I find it very difficult to reconcile. On the one hand I learn that the governor-generals of Angora, Konia, Cæsarea and other places are expending large sums to relieve the distress which still continues. Mr. Thomson informed me that the *valis* at the above-named places are not only not remitting any money to Constantinople for the Government but are many thousand pounds in debt for grain. The *vali* at Angora, after expending all he has been able to collect as taxes, owes for grain alone 60,000 liras. Such is the report of Mr. Thomson's agent.

On the other hand, letters recently received mention cases of great distress and of death in small towns and villages. Mr. Farnsworth writes from Cæsarea, under date of July 24 :—“Harvest here is coming in well, but still it appears that all my forebodings are about to be realized. Within a week I have received a letter from the town of Alenjé, where we thought that help might not be needed. In that place, however, children are dropsical from improper food, and the people see starvation starving them in the face. A letter from a friend in Soongoorloo says :—“We are distributing 400 *pides* a day, giving to some one-half a *pide*, though each person ought to have two. Still persons are dying daily, and the number of the dying is increasing. The thirty days for which you authorized us to distribute bread are passed. What are the sufferers to do now?”

Now it clearly appears that while the authorities are making praiseworthy efforts in the large cities, their organization does not reach to the many villages and small towns scattered over the country, for in these the people are still perishing for want of bread. It seems, therefore, needful to draw the attention of the Government to this point. The prospect before the Government is a formidable one indeed, and the authorities ought to be preparing their minds for what is inevitably coming. If they would not see the smitten country largely depopulated, they must prepare to expend half a mil-

lion, perhaps a million of pounds. Preparations, too, ought to be made immediately, before the time for fall sowing and before the severity of winter comes. The *London Times* has repeatedly assured the authorities at home and in India that they would be held strictly to account for the loss of a single life through want of food in India. How magnificent the preparations and how noble the result! Could we see the authorities here awake to the demands of the hour, many would be moved to make urgent appeals to friends in America and England for private contributions. I take the liberty to send these few thoughts, hoping that you will press the matter upon the attention of the Government.—I am, etc. G.

Constantinople, Aug. 3.

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SIR,—Letters received this day from several places in Asia Minor give some additional intelligence respecting the famine.

The following are extracts :—

“About 200 villagers, of whom 80 or more are helplessly sick, still remain in Marsovan. They lie in the mosque yards and brick-kilns. They all come from the region of Yozgat and Angora, and are all Mussulmans. Representations of their condition has been made to the local government, but with what result there is nothing yet to show....”

“Sickness has begun its work in Yozgat. Of 2,500 or more persons in the barracks in that city, very many are sick, and from 25 to 30 die daily....”

“In Cæsarea flour can be had only in very small quantities, and prices are advancing. The prospect for the future is bad indeed.”—I am, etc.,

G.

Constantinople, Aug. 40.

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ANGORA, July 29.

SIR,—I regret to report numerous cases of brigandage and house robbery in town as well as in the districts outside. Some of the details are as under :—In the Bey-Bazaar district, a centrally situated village called Cooyajack, was pitched upon by the *caïmacam* to distribute a quantity of bread-stuffs received from the Angora governor. The residents flocking from all parts, and returning laden with their portions, were frequently intercepted by three bands of brigands. The



largest of these also attacked a mule train laden with merchandise coming from Sirvihissar, and despoiled travellers of every sort of eatables, of which they seemed most in search. This last exploit excited a sort of rising amongst the whole neighbourhood and, headed by a few zaptiehs, the populace gave chase. Out of 60 they succeeded in capturing five suspects, including the supposed leader, ascertained to be an escaped convict from Sinope. The others are from amongst the starving villagers of the neighbourhood. Within a few miles of the town a small gang of half a dozen have been plundering solitary travellers, but without using violence. When anything eatable is found the first proceeding is to bind and blindfold the victim, light a fire, and cook the food. An Angorlee, called Afkeronisk, and a shepherd called Hyrabat, have been robbed in this way and left to find their way as best they could with nothing left but their shirts. Two of these have just been captured and committed to prison. The prison is also crowded with numbers of petty thieves who have been caught in the act of plundering or breaking into private houses. The funds allotted to Angora from the "famine fund" having been exhausted, Mr. Thomson's soup-kitchen has been stopped, and the result has been to increase very considerably the numbers of wretched famine pinched people about the streets. As the harvest time is just beginning, it is hoped, however, that most of these will find employment of some kind if they really wish it. The harvest, it is now ascertained, will be insufficient, and prices of necessaries are sure to be high. The local Government is on this occasion bestirring itself in time, and is reported to have purchased the tithe of Afione-kara Hissar, a district at no great distance, and where wheat and barley have been unusually abundant.

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The accounts which reach us day by day from the districts of Asia Minor ravaged by the Famine tend to show that the tragedy is by no means played out, and that the prospects

for the coming year are of a nature to inspire grave anxiety, and to call for serious consideration and energetic treatment at the hands of the Government. When a danger is impending the only safe policy is to look it steadily in the face, to study its nature, measure its full extent and import, consider and adopt the means by which it may be averted, or, if inadvertible, those which may mitigate the mischief logically following upon its substantiation. It is impossible to read the well authenticated narratives which we have published on the subject of the Asia Minor Famine without coming to the conviction that very great danger is yet impending over the regions afflicted by this visitation. It is not our desire to treat the matter from an alarmist point of view, or to weave sensational articles out of a theme so sad. But, impressed with the danger of which we speak, we should fail in our duty if we sought to gloss over a situation which we believe to be pregnant with peril, or to disguise under a cloak of optimism the gaunt spectre whose second approach casts a yet darker shadow of gloom upon the lands already smitten with death and desolation. We have no alternative but to face the peril, define it, meet it, and perchance suggest that which may ward off the worst consequences which it threatens. First, let us endeavour to arrive at something approaching an accurate estimate of the mischief already done. The head-quarters of the famine lie in a region defined by boundary lines running from Angora to Konia on the west, from Konia to Nigdeh on the south, from Nigdeh to Tokat on the east, and from Tokat to Angora on the north; comprising a district containing about 40,000 square miles. The famine has not been entirely confined to this district. There has been scarcity in many directions beyond the limits we have drawn; scarcity which has been aggravated by hordes of refugees from the starved country. But it is the

centre of Asia Minor described by the limits we have laid down which actual famine has invaded, and which is at this moment prostrate under the heel of the invader. "This whole district," says Mr. Farnsworth—a district with an area equal to four-fifths of that of England—"is in a great measure depopulated;" the inhabitants have fled, their flocks and herds have perished, their fields and vineyards are ruined, they have burned their own houses for fuel, and were they to return they would find their villages uninhabitable. But, says Mr. Farnsworth again, "These people are not only destitute of food and of flocks; they have no growing grain." Before the sowing season came the seed was eaten and the oxen died. Less than one-fourth of the usual area has been sown, and what has been sown will not give a good yield, so that the harvest will bring scarcely any relief. Even the vines and fruit trees have been damaged by late frosts and hail, and will not yield their usual quota of subsistence to the population. Last year there was some old grain in store. This year there is none. All the reserves of food have been consumed and the harvest is wholly inadequate to supply the population. Taking the most moderate estimate of the deaths from actual starvation and the diseases resulting from insufficient food, they cannot fall short of 450,000. In the *caza* of Soongoorloo alone there were 5,000 deaths, and indeed our Angora correspondent estimates the mortality within the limits of his own district at the figure which we accept as the probable total for the whole of the territory smitten by the famine. This is a brief summary of the mischief done already.

We now come to the danger for the future. It is a very obvious deduction from the above facts and figures that a famine yet more severe than that of 1874 threatens for 1875. In fact, it is inevitable unless combatted by energetic mea-



tures. And it will not only be more severe because there is actually less food to start with than there was last year, but because it will strike upon a population enfeebled by disease, discouraged by misfortune, demoralised by the entire subversion of the whole economy of its existence. If 450,000 have succumbed to want, or half or a tenth of that number, what must be the deterioration of the portion of the population which has escaped? They have just contrived to live; they have had a small balance of vital power in their favour which has just kept the breath in their bodies; but what margin can remain of health or hope to give energy for such a struggle as lies before them? It is but too evident that the work of social decomposition has not only begun but has made alarming progress in the afflicted districts. We read in a recent correspondence from Angora of numerous acts of brigandage and robbery, of starved groups of human beings lying in wait to snatch away the dole of food which charity has bestowed upon their neighbours. The population is beginning to prey upon itself. This is a terrible picture when, in contemplating it, we reflect upon its real significance. It signifies that one of the worst symptoms of that social disintegration, which precedes and leads to depopulation, has already declared itself. Let not the Government delude itself with the belief that depopulation is a visionary terror which we are conjuring up. Depopulation is the danger which is staring the Government in the face. The action of famine is more rapid and more deadly than the action of war or of pestilence. War and pestilence reduced the population without reducing the means of subsistence; and the recovery from industrial disorganisation, ensuing upon these causes, is often rapid, because the available means of subsistence are relatively increased by the diminution of the population. But in famine the case is reversed. The means

of subsistence fail and human life fails with it. Death, disease, and discouragement paralyse the arm of industry; law loses its power; instincts of self-preservation outweigh it; the only choice left lies between death and plunder; and brigandage achieves rapidly the work of ruin. Three successive years of famine suffice to depopulate any country where the Government does not promptly and vigorously grapple with the calamity. In Asia Minor one year of famine has sufficed to develope some of the worst symptoms of social disorganisation. Another year of famine is certain, inevitable; and, if left to itself, it is not humanly possible that the country should rally in the third year. Let the Government, then, be warned and take earnest counsel to stop the mischief before it be too late.

What is to be done? The answer is suggested in the letter of Mr. Farnsworth. It is dictated by the action of the British Government in India, where a crowded population covering an extent of country to which the famine-stricken region of Asia Minor is a mere speck, was snatched from the jaws of death by prompt and judicious intervention. It is true that the famine was generally foreseen; and that a free press told the Government that the nation would not endure that there should be loss of human life by famine, and that the Government was responsible for life so lost. The Government, therefore, armed itself against the danger, and met it in a manner so masterly and efficient that where it was feared that thousands of lives would have been lost, the actual deaths from famine amounted to less than fifty. The line of conduct followed by the British Government was, first, to ensure an abundant supply of food, and then to organise useful public works, upon which all who sought bread might find the means of earning it, these public works being of a nature to reduce the chances of famine in

future years. The problem which is before the Porte at this moment is similar to that which was before the Indian Government a year ago, with this difference, that it applies to a range of territory much narrower and much more accessible, and an infinitely less dense population. Thus, the Ottoman Government has an example before it; an example which has been successfully applied to a far wider range of affliction than that with which the Porte is called upon to deal, and of which the imitation on a smaller scale presents no difficulties at all comparable with those which surrounded its experimental application on the larger. The British Government has shown that of Turkey how the invasion of famine may be repelled, and it now only rests with the latter to decide whether it will adopt the means, proved efficacious, to repel the invader, or whether it will allow death and desolation to stalk triumphantly over its fairest provinces. The question is, whether the centre of Asia Minor, the very garden of the Empire, where a few months ago toiled a poor but industrious population paying enormous taxes, and waiting with patient submission for the magic touch of wise legislation which should place prosperity within its reach;—the question, we say, is, whether this territory is to be allowed to become a depopulated waste, a haunt of brigands, a permanent scar upon the face of the Empire, or whether it is to be restored, its scattered social elements brought together again, and a new hope given to the forlorn fugitives who wander homeless over it now. Mr. Farnsworth, in one of his letters, says, “it was hoped that the Government might employ some 15,000 or 20,000 on the great railway that was to be made through this region from Angora to Cæsarea. Such a number employed would have furnished a living to 50,000 souls.” It is clear that the Government cannot remain supine in the face of the situation which the centre of Ana-



tolia presents. Act it must. But it may act perfunctorily, or it may act thoroughly. It may send rations of food to the people, expend a good deal of money in so doing, and achieve no permanent result whatever. The right course is that suggested by Mr. Farnsworth's remarks, and proved by the test of experience in India to be effectual. Supplies of food must of course be sent to the famished towns, and sold at cost price to all who can afford to buy it; but those who have no money must pay in labour, and the Department of Public Works should, therefore, be instructed to open at once relief works all through from Ismidt to Cæsarea. The principle has already been admitted that the Ismidt Railway must be carried on to Cæsarea; the surveys have been made and the Government is only awaiting opportunity to proceed with the works. Here, then, is opportunity and something more. The famine has thrown a large amount of cheap labour upon the hands of the Government; who must either find present employment for it, or it will be lost for ever to the country. Further it has been plainly shown that want of proper means of communication is the real cause of famine. Nothing, then, can be more obvious than the duty of the Government to employ the labour referred to in making the means of communication of which the want has led to the famine. We doubt neither the good-will nor the power of the Government to grapple effectually with the difficulty; our only fear is that the Porte may not be sufficiently impressed with the gravity of the disaster, or perceive the fatal consequences to which it tends. Therefore, we have stated the case as plainly as possible, and as soon as we can learn what measures the Government intends to adopt, we shall use our utmost efforts to obtain, through publicity in these columns, and elsewhere, the co-operation of private charity.

In our leading article of Saturday (observes the *Levant Herald*), three days after the publication of the foregoing, we expressed our fears that the famine of 1875 would be more severe than that of 1874. The following letter already comes to bear out our view :—

SIR,—From a letter dated Cæsarea, Aug. 7, 1874, which has just come to hand, I beg to quote the following for your paper respecting the Asia Minor famine. “What are the friends doing further for our starving people? Things are growing decidedly worse even now while the harvest is coming in. We have never seen the ovens in Cæsarea thronged as they were yesterday. While the people have spent all their living, and have little or nothing to buy with, prices are even now at about the highest figure that they have ever reached, and must inevitably advance. We tremble at the prospect before us. I have just closed my account of monies sent to me by English and American friends for the famine-stricken sufferers. We have spent 48½ piastres, good money above all receipts, and how can we stop? Do urge our friends to “patient continuance in well-doing.”

A letter received from Yozgat this morning represents that that city and vicinity must suffer more in the coming than they did in the past year. The people are inopportunately praying for help.”—I am, etc.,

G.

Constantinople, Aug. 17.

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The progress of the social disorganisation, which resulted from a few weeks of famine, is told in the following letters from Angora, Kaise-rich and Adana :—

ANGORA, Aug. 8.

Although isolated cases of brigandage are unfortunately too

common in this province, it seems to be only under the pressure of famine that robbers combine into bands in order to levy black mail on their more prosperous neighbours. Several districts lately have been exposed to wholesale depredations, and some cases have even occurred close to the gates of the town.

In the Baybazaar district, a village called Cooyajak was chosen by the *caïmacam* to distribute to the starving villagers a quantity of breadstuffs received for that purpose from the governor of Angora. One of the local fairs was being held at the same time. The villagers, going thither from all parts, afforded too good an opportunity for thieves to lose, and many of the poor peasantry were accordingly robbed of the food they so much required. The largest of the three bands also attacked a mule-train coming from Sivri-Hissar, but did not seem to be in search of merchandise so much as food. The *caïmacam* took repressive measures promptly enough and the *zaptiehs*, with the assistance of the despoiled villagers, succeeded in capturing five of the brigands and dispersing the rest.

Close to the town a smaller gang of half a dozen have been plundering solitary travellers, for which they have abundant opportunities, as the Angorlees at this season desert the town *en masse* to live in the vineyards or gardens that cover all the hillsides at distances of from four to eight miles. One unfortunate householder, the other evening, whilst going to his garden with his donkey's panniers well stuffed with bread and vegetables for his family, was set upon by the gang referred to and bound and blindfolded ere he could offer resistance or attempt to escape. The next proceeding was to light a fire and cook the eatables of which the thieves were polite enough to ask their victim to partake, but, as may be supposed, he excused himself on the plea of want of appetite. After a hearty meal they began to quarrel about the division of the spoil, so the owner was asked to fix the value of his donkey, watch, and clothing. He was released soon after, and about midnight reached home barefoot, and stripped to his shirt, just as his anxious friends were setting out in search of him.



It is some satisfaction that two of the thieves were captured the following day.

The prison is also crowded with numbers of persons caught in the act of plundering or breaking into private houses. A local journal, the *Ancyra* (one of those Turkish newspapers that seem to exist for no other purpose than to laud the proceedings of local governments as evidences of superhuman wisdom), whilst detailing these and similar outrages, gives far more prominence to the congratulatory letters that have been sent by the governor to the various *caïmakams* acknowledging the promptitude with which the brigands have been pursued and a few of them captured. A more practical article in the same paper is in the shape of a memorandum from the pasha calling the attention of merchants to the large demand for breadstuffs and cattle for agricultural purposes, and to the fact that, at present prices, a certain profit remains to importers ; and appealing to their patriotism as well as to their interest to assist him in saving the province from another famine. The governor undertakes, on behalf of the local government, that every assistance shall be given to the peasantry in making purchases, and that no vexatious restrictions shall be placed on trade.

The amount allotted to Angora from the "Famine Fund" having been exhausted, Mr. Thomson's soup-kitchen has been closed. The result was to increase very considerably for some days the numbers of hungry people about the streets ; but the harvest fields and gardens now furnish employment for most of those willing to work. The drawback of giving general relief is that it almost certainly pauperises a proportion of those who receive it. Those who have been responsible for the distribution receive more complaints that they are unable to do any more, than gratitude for what they have done ; fortunately (with Englishmen at least), the sense of duty and the desire to save some fellow-creatures from the most horrible of deaths are stronger motives than getting empty praise.

The harvest, now secured, though nearly up to the average in quality is very short in quantity, owing to the scarcity of seed-corn in spring, and the commerce in the products of the

province is so lifeless and money consequently so dear, that serious fears are entertained of fresh distress and famine during the coming winter. In addition to the high price of necessaries the gardens and vineyards have been scorched by tropical heat and a forty days' drought. Should the much-needed rain be longer delayed the fruits and vegetables, which are almost necessities of life in Anatolia, will again be wanting.

In this emergency, public works of some kind, either roads or railways, would be a blessing to the province. They would give employment and bread to the people and cause money to circulate more freely, besides preventing a recurrence of last year's calamities. Should their construction be delayed, then it will take all the experience and resources of the Government to feed the multitude who will soon be again without bread and who are at present houseless and naked. It is so far fortunate that the urgency of the need seems to be realized by an energetic, experienced governor; and after the publicity that has been obtained, it is surely impossible that the unfortunate peasantry should be allowed to perish.

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SIR,—More than a month has now passed since my report of the condition and prospects of the people in the eastern portions of the famine stricken regions of Asia Minor. A large proportion of the harvest of Cæsarea and its immediate vicinity has been gathered. The crop has come in quite as good as was anticipated. The weather has been cool with fine north winds, just the most favourable for the filling of the heads and the forming of the heaviest kernel. The effect, however, on our market, is, I am sorry to say, even less satisfactory than was expected. It was believed that, for a time at least, prices would fall, but instead of that they have gone up. The poorest quality of flour is now selling for about 45 piastres the batman (six okes). Two months ago it was bought for 40. The advance in the better qualities has not been so great, but at no time has it been so expensive as at present. We are not without hope that when the crops in the regions east and south-east of us come in, prices will recede somewhat, but the probability is very small.

At no time have our ovens or our flour markets indicated such scarcity as within the last week. A few days ago, in the rich town of Talas, with its 45,000 inhabitants, I found it impossible to buy either bread or flour. There was absolutely none to be had at any price. In ordinary times, the failure of the supplies for a few days would hardly be noticed, but not so now. A very large proportion of our population, both in the city and in the surrounding towns, is dependent upon the daily supply of bread from the public ovens, or upon the flour markets, where their reduced means compel them to buy in very small quantities. Hence most serious suffering must follow should flour fail at any time to come in for a few days even. Any one who knows the means of communication and transportation in Turkey will see that it can hardly be regarded as less than a miracle should supplies come in regularly. Within three days the people have acted like crazy men when a few loads of flour came in. Just now there is a supply again, but only a very small supply. The people suppose that the reason for the small arrivals is that the farmers are now busy with their harvesting. This is partially true. That they are busy there is no doubt. That they will bring in any considerable quantity after harvest there is hardly a possibility. For this there are two reasons. One is, they will have very little to sell. The other and more serious reason is, that prices here are not high enough (though absolutely ruinous to the mass of the people) to induce dealers to bring in grain. Last week I was in Gemerek, a large town lying about 45 miles N.E. of Cæsarea, and ordinarily one of our best grain markets. That town is not properly included in the famine region, and it was but natural to expect large supplies from that quarter, but unless our prices advance yet more we shall receive little or nothing from that place, for the grain finds a ready market there at about the same figure. The result of many inquiries was that not more than half the usual amount was shown in the region of Gemerek; hence there will be only a very small surplus. The same is true of several of the best grain growing villages lying still farther east.

The *mutessarif* of Cæsarea and prominent members of the



Government in this place are worthy of all praise for their untiring and efficient efforts to secure an abundant supply of flour for the city and vicinity, and that at as low a price as practicable. The experience of Yozgat the past winter shows that the natural competition of trade is not enough, in this country, to protect the people against the most abominable extortions. While flour in Cæsarea went up to two and one half times its usual price, in Yozgat it went up to ten times its usual figure. But grateful as the people are and ought to be to the governor of Cæsarea, it is evidently impossible to go counter to the laws of trade. We fear that the time is near when prices must advance considerably, or our supplies will fail. The following is another illustration showing the difference between the *mutessarif* of Cæsarea and that of Yozgat.

A few weeks ago each undertook to send away large numbers of the vagrants that have congregated in these places. The *mutessarif* of Cæsarea sent zaptiehs and a provision train to afford them a daily supply of food till they should reach the place where they would fall under the supervision of their own governors. In Yozgat they were furnished with a measure of wheat (4 okes), for each person, and conducted by policemen some two or three miles from town as we are told, and then dismissed with the forcible Turkish expression, *haidé gidin*. How far these half starved creatures toiled on with their loads and how many of them died by the way we have no means of knowing, but we can believe the report that many of them returned to Yozgat.

It was said in a previous letter that there are multitudes of people in a condition fitting them to fall a prey to any epidemic. We now hear that of 2,500 or more miserable wretches collected in the barracks at Yozgat, some 20 or 30 are dying daily, while there are hundreds of sick that are not taken into the barracks or allowed government aid. Soongoorloo is reported as still worse, and while disease is coming in, the severity of the famine increases. We are astounded at the stupidity that lets such a town, the residence of a *caïmacam*, suffer as this place has done, with no attempt at relief. When I was there, the number that had already died in the *saudjak* was 5,000,

and the governor told me that they had made repeated and earnest appeals for help, but in vain!—I am, etc.,

W. A. FARNSWORTH.

Cæsarea, Aug. 13.

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ADANA, Aug. 6.

Immigration from the disiricts ravaged by famine continues and appears even to be increasing. Since my last letter about 600 families have passed the Taurus and descended into the plain of Adana. Unaccustomed to the hot and unhealthy climate of the low country, these wretched people are being decimated by disease, and may be seen lying emaciated and half-naked in all the grave-yards and mosques and even in the streets. Yesterday, at Tarsus alone, thirty-eight deaths were registered.

Mahmoud Pasha, the governor-general, has done everything in his power to alleviate the distress. His Highness, who was laid up with rheumatism at Gozna in the mountains, was on the point of coming down into the plain to superintend the distribution of relief, but was deterred from doing so by his physician. He, however, forwarded 40,000 piastres to the sufferers from his own private purse, and sent strict injunctions to the governors of all the *cazas* to do their utmost for the immigrants, by raising subscriptions, furnishing them with lodging, either in houses or tents, and causing the sick to be attended by the municipality doctors. I believe his Highness has telegraphed to Koniah and Angora to stop the influx of immigrants, and that he has also applied to Constantinople for assistance in favour of those who have already come.

No doubt the mortality amongst these people might have been lessened by proper care. But there is only one hospital here, established by the Greek merchants of Mersina, and attended by the municipality doctor; and it is very small, containing only ten beds.

Some chiefs of the Nusairryeh tribe lately petitioned Mahmoud Pasha in favour of 250 families who desire to emigrate to this province from the neighbourhood of Antioch, in Syria.

I hear that his Highness has acceded to their demand, and allotted them a wide flat tract of fertile country on the hither bank of the Gihoun.

Aug. 45.

The excessive unhealthiness of the present summer has made itself felt with especial severity at Tarsus. The reason of this is not difficult to explain. Tarsus is situated on the highway from the interior, and being the first town on this side of Taurus, it has been almost overrun by the unfortunate outcasts from Angora, and the accumulation of these people in one spot has produced an immense amount of suffering. The inhabitants of Tarsus fled in large numbers from this scene of misery and took refuge in the mountains, where the climate is healthier, and not more than a fifth of the inhabitants (half of them ill) remain in the town. The facts which I am about to relate will give you a notion of the suffering. Several dead bodies of immigrants having been seen floating away upon the waters of the Cydnus, the *caïmacam* of Tarsus rode out with the President of the Municipality and a number of zaptiehs for the purpose of bringing some of the unhappy sufferers into the town. At about ten minutes distance from the town, at a spot where the river forms a cascade, the party were horrified by perceiving several human corpses on the river-bank. Some of them were fearfully decomposed and covered with worms, while others had had the flesh partly or entirely eaten off the skeleton by dogs and jackals. About ten bodies thus discovered were inhumed on the spot by the zaptiehs. When news of this incident was brought to Mahmoud Pasha at Gozna, *serum est cavendi tempus in mediis malis*, delegates and doctors were at once despatched from Adana and Mersina to Tarsus. But alas! what can they do without money? The sums subscribed here have not sufficed to alleviate all the suffering in Adana. It is expected that the well-known generosity of the governor-general will impel him to contribute further pecuniary help; but some LT. 5,000 would be required for the *caza* of Tarsus alone. Tarsus is almost depopulated, and unless immediate assistance be forthcoming, the wretched people who have flocked thither must all perish. I feel bound, under these circumstances, to make



known the generous conduct of John Avania, a Greek merchant of Tarsus, who, on being asked to contribute something and seeing that the subscription hardly amounted to 200 piastres, immediately put down his name for 5,000 piastres, and instructed the head of the Relief Commission to apply to him again in case of great necessity. There are few persons in this province, I am sorry to say, who are likely to imitate the example set by Mr. Avania.

Some of the immigrants here were at first accommodated in a building which the authorities call a hospital, but which was really unfit for pigs to inhabit. But the poor sufferers preferred dying under trees or bushes in the open air to being buried alive in such a filthy dungeon. At last, in compliance with the advice of the doctors, a healthier and more suitable building was thrown open to the sick, while those who were able to walk were distributed amongst the villages. This was done last week, and since then the deaths have decreased to 9 or 10 per day. Most heart-rending is the sight of infants from five months to five years old, who have been left alone in the midst of so much misery, by the death of their parents. About forty of them have been collected in the hospital at Tarsus, but they are dropping away one after the other for want of food and attention. An attempt was made to distribute the poor little orphans amongst the surviving Mussulman families, but none would accept them. They have enough to do in attending to their own pressing wants. I believe authorities would rather the little creatures died than that they should be entrusted to the care of Christians, for the orphans are all of Mahomedan parents.

No town or village has probably suffered so much from this unfortunate influx of immigrants as Tarsus. Owing to the custom of inhuming bodies at an insufficient depth in the soil, the graveyards there emit a horrible stench and have become utterly unapproachable. Recently an order was given that the depth of the graves should be increased. But is the order carried out? I doubt it.

The Adana authorities have now sent a force of zaptiehs to guard the gorge of Kuleh Boghaz in the Taurus and prevent any more immigrants from coming into the plain, and locate

them for the present in the villages on the mountain. The new-comers have heard of the fate of their countrymen who preceded them and been advised to retrace their steps; but all the answer they made was that "it was better to be killed by fatigue or illness than to die of starvation."

Mimtaf Effendi, governor of Tarsus, together with most of the Government officials in that town, have fallen ill and have been compelled to abandon the deadly climate of the plain.

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We are requested by Mr. J. R. Thomson, says the *Levant Herald* of 3rd Sept., to acknowledge the following further subscriptions to the Asia Minor Famine Relief Fund :

Sir Titus Salt, Son and Co., Bradford second subscription.....	L. 200
Messrs. Mitchell Brothers, Bradford, second subscription.....	» 200
Mr. J. G. Lindsay, Belfast, second subscription.....	» 3
Mr. James Middlemass, Edinburgh.....	» 2
» Hayden, London.....	» 5
Messrs. Hayden and Streater, Pera.....	» 5

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L. 415

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At this period the apparent apathy of the Government excited considerable remark, and the *Levant Herald* published the following letter on the subject :

SIR,—I take the liberty to quote the following for your journal from a letter dated Cæsarea, Aug, 19, which has just come to hand :

"I want to say something about the way the Government gathers its information. The *mudir* reports to his superior, the *caïmacam*, that the people of his district are suffering from lack of food. The *caïmacam* may heed or not the request for help, and without his co-operation the *mudir* and the people of his district are helpless. Again, the *caïmacam*, as at Soongoorloo, may appeal to the *mutessarif*, and that functionary may heed his appeal or not, but without his help the former

has little prospect of a hearing from the *vali*. I have no doubt that the people of Soongoorloo are left to starve through the gross inactivity of the *mutessarif* of Yozgat, the *caïmacam* of the former place being faithful and earnest in the discharge of his duties. On the other hand, the reverse appears to have been true at Ak-Sérai. There the *caïmacam* was unmoved by the fact that the streets were thronged with half-starved villagers who were driven from the public ovens when they had secured a bit of money with which to buy bread, and that by the *zaptiehs* of the *caïmacam*, in order that the natives of the town might have the first opportunity to buy; but as soon as I spoke to the *mutessarif* of Nigdé of the condition of things at Ak-Sérai he ordered relief to be sent, and at the same time spoke of the great difficulty of securing reliable information. Is there no way to remedy this great evil? It is evident that a lack of correct information will cost the Government thousands of good subjects, nay, it has already been the cause of vast suffering and of great reproach. If the Government does not receive full and correct information from its own officials, why will it not accept the testimony of impartial outsiders?"

It would seem from the above statements, which are fully trustworthy, that the Government has issued no general orders to guide the conduct of its officials, nor formed any comprehensive plan for the relief of the famine-stricken region. Only those villages and towns get relief which happen to have a *mudir*, or *caïmacam*, or *mutessarif*, who is both wise enough and interested enough and humane enough to exert himself in their behalf. This is an intelligible, but surely a lamentable explanation, of the fact that some towns are relieved and others neglected. Let us hope that the Government will take steps to obtain such complete information as will enable it to form a comprehensive and satisfactory scheme for relieving the distress which is already lamentable, and which threatens to be highly disastrous.—I am, etc.,

G.

Constantinople, Sept. 4.

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Five days latter it was officially announced that the Government had decided upon the appointment of a Commission to inquire into the extent of the ravages wrought by the famine and to report upon the measures best adapted to alleviate the misery of the population. This announcement elicited the following leading article from the *Levant Herald*:—

We congratulate the Imperial Government on having at length taken a preliminary step towards coming between the living and the dead, and interposing to arrest the devastation which the famine and concomitant evils are working in the central provinces of Asia Minor. A commission, composed of one medical and two military officers with a secretary, left for the scene of the calamity on Monday last, and its mission is to report to the central relief commission, which continues to sit in the capital under the presidency of Sa'adoullah Bey. It does not appear that there is any disposition at the Porte to disguise the magnitude of the mischief which is at work. On the contrary, the information upon which the central relief commission is acting coincides, in all its principal features, with that which we have published. The famine actually exists in two large provnices, those of Kastamboul and of Angora. Scarcity has been felt in districts beyond the limits of those provinces, but it has arisen to a great extent through the influx of the starved population from Angora and Kastamboul at a season when, owing to the drought and scanty crops of last year, the stores of grain were unusually low. The official report from the governor of Angora states that the actual deficiency of food supply, necessary to keep the population alive until next

harvest, is 500,000 kilehs or bushels of grain. It is estimated, although with a vagueness which is not altogether satisfactory, that the neighbouring provinces of Sivas, Elbassan and Kharpout will be able to afford half of this supply, but that the other half must be furnished from Constantinople. It would be safer to assume that the whole had to be so furnished; for Angora, Yuzgat, Kirchehir and Tchangri will be almost wholly dependent upon extraneous sources, and we strongly doubt the existence of any efficient organisation to obtain supplies of grain from the provinces lying beyond the centres of distress. Besides grain, however, oxen and agricultural implements must be supplied to the population. The Central Relief Commission has purchased in the vicinity of Trebizond 2,700 pairs of oxen, but this number is wholly insufficient to enable the agricultural population of Kastamboul and Angora to raise a crop sufficient for their next year's wants. The number of cattle lost, during last winter, was about 100,000 head; but even taking, say, 42,000 pairs as the minimum requisite to supply the cultivators, it is by no means clear how they are to be provided. The relief commission deplores the slackened activity of private charity and apprehends that, unless it be renewed, there will shortly be no further means at its disposal. This apprehension we fully share; and it is, in our view, out of the question to expect that private charity should furnish half a million bushels of grain and three thousand yoke of oxen, representing a prime outlay of L. 300,000 without allowing anything for transport and expense of distribution. Besides, bread and oxen are not the only requisites; fuel and clothing, agricultural implements, and the means of repairing the houses pulled down for firewood, are all absolutely essential to establish the degree of comfort requisite to maintain the population in a

fit state for labour, and to prevent their falling a prey to disease. Nor do we see how oil, salt fish, olives, and onions, the simple condiments which constitute the only variety in the diet of the provincial labouring classes, can be dispensed with. It would certainly not be an over estimate to set down these requisites at L. 50,000, so that to keep the population together, an outlay of L. 350,000 is called for; and when that money has been expended in furnishing the relief above described, there will be a wide field open to private charity for cases of individual suffering.

If, then, the relief commission trust to spontaneous charity as the mainstay of its system of relief, we are convinced that it is trusting to a broken reed. It is the Government who must furnish the bulk of the relief which is to be given, and then it may safely leave in the hands of private charity those smaller details which are necessary to render the work complete. Fortunate it is that the emergency which calls for action on the part of the Government finds the Treasury well supplied and with ample means at its disposal to face the disbursement which it will entail. The proceeds of the loan contracted with the Imperial Ottoman Bank are now becoming available, and the Government need not hesitate to apply them to an object, the attainment of which is calculated to exercise so important an influence upon the future of the country.

It is, however, to be hoped that the Relief Committee will not fall into the error of applying the grant which the State must make to it, without securing some advantage to the State in return. The gift of grain and bullocks to the population would be uneconomical; the loaning of it, to be repaid out of future crops, would be worse, and would simply drive the peasants again into the hands of usurers, and lead up to another industrial collapse like the famine



whose ravages it is now sought to heal. The manner in which the relief fund should be applied should be in keeping the bazaars well supplied with flour, rice, etc., so that all common articles of food would be within reach, at moderate prices, of all who have money to spend. But relief should be given to able-bodied men, youths, and women only in exchange for a fair equivalent of labour. This labour should be employed upon the railway works between Angora and Ismidt and Angora and Kaiserieh, and where those works are too distant from the villages in which the recipients of relief reside, it should be utilised in improving the communications between those villages and the chief towns of the provinces, in order to guard against their isolation in the depth of winter. The scale of wages paid for labour should be fairly liberal, because underpaid labour, in a case like the present, would only tend further to depress a population already bowed down by suffering; but the labour should nevertheless represent a fair equivalent for the money given, and in this way there would be no waste. The State would get value in public works for its outlay; the people value in money for their labour. Thus organised by the Government, there would be a substantial working basis of operations for the relief of the starved population, and private charity would find thereupon a foothold for its necessarily sparse and partial efforts. What further strain local charity may be able to bear we cannot pretend to say, but we feel confident that a fresh appeal to the English public would meet with a liberal response. Yet, without bringing shame upon the Sublime Porte, such an appeal cannot be made until the Government organises its own system of relief; then private charity might be asked to supplement it. At present, all that could be said is that a relief commission is "sitting" under a very able and conscientious president, but with no

plan and no money to carry it out if it had one; and that at a somewhat late stage Commission No. 2 had been sent to the famine stricken provinces to write reports to Commission No. 1. The natural remark upon this statement of the measures taken by the Government is that the first was feeble and the second tardy; that, after the famine had been raging nigh a year, it was monstrous that the Government should not be informed of every particular connected with it, and that if the *valis*, *mutessarifs*, *caïmacams*, *mudirs*, etc., had not been able, with the telegraph at their command, to supply in that space of time full, trustworthy, and suggestive information, such as the Porte might act upon, they must be a singularly inefficient body of functionaries. The summer has been lost. We stand on the threshold of the winter. Before the Commission (No. 2) can finish its rounds, the autumn rains will have fallen, the torrents will have swollen, communications will have become precarious, and the wheat sowing season will have passed. Let us once more then urge the Porte to action. Broad facts upon which to act it has before it and to spare. The danger of doing too much is trivial, compared with that of doing too little, but the greatest peril of all lies in being too late.

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Further news appeared from Angora in the *Levant Herald* of 18th Sept. :—

An official report from Angora states that the harvest returns are now complete for the whole province, and show a shortcoming from average years of about 240,000 bushels. The governor has also caused a return to be made up of those who, having during last winter lost all their flocks and herds, are now utterly destitute. This shows the sad total of

21,500 individuals who must by some means or other be kept alive during the winter. The Pasha has informed the Central Government of the alarming state of matters and is now awaiting further instructions. His proposals are as follows:—That the central Government should make up the shortcoming in the food crops or empower him to make the necessary purchases in neighbouring provinces where the harvest has been plentiful. That the burden of taxation generally should be lightened for the current year, and the sheep and goat tax in particular be reduced from 7 to 4 piastres a head. He is also, in the meantime, making every effort to induce the richer Christian merchants of the town to combine to bring forward supplies to help to stop the gap. Meanwhile, wheat and flour continue at famine prices and are extremely scarce even at high rates. His excellency expresses a hope that the “generous English,” whose subscriptions during the recent famine were the means of saving so many lives, will realize the still greater necessity of this second period of famine and enable him to count upon another means of overtaking the fresh calamity.

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The American missions, which had from the first taken the deepest interest in the sufferers by the famine, now began to give practical proof of the earnestness of their charitable efforts in the United States. On the 26th Sept. the Rev. Mr. Pettibone wrote as follows to the *Levant Herald*:—

SIR,—I write to acknowledge the receipt of two hundred and seventy-five Turkish liras (LT. 275) from friends in the United States, for sufferers by the famine. The money has been sent



for distribution in the Marsovan and the Cæsarea districts.—  
I am, etc.,

J. F. PETTIBONE.

Constantinople, Sept. 23.

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This letter elicited from that journal the following editorial remarks :—

From across the Atlantic comes a response to the appeals for charitable aid made in behalf of the remnant of the population of those districts in Asia Minor which were devastated by the famiæ of 1873. Happily for the survivors of that catastrophe, now standing helpless as sheep at the shambles waiting their turn—waiting for the inevitably greater catastrophe of 1874—their cry of distress strikes eloquently upon distant ears, and speaks, abroad, to hearts who acknowledge the laws of humanity, and who, in the pitiful appeal of the suffering, hear not only a prayer but a command.

Since we last wrote on the subject, nothing whatever has transpired with respect to the measures which the Government proposes to adopt in order to avert the repetition a few weeks hence, and with doubly fatal effect, of the famine invasion of last winter. Doubly fatal effect, because all power of resistance is exhausted. The people discouraged by misfortune, enfeebled by want and disease, have already stripped themselves of every moveable which could be sold or burnt, and have to meet the coming famine without either fuel, or shelter, or clothing; so that when the assault comes they will drop before it like flies before the winter blast. The Commission is going its round, inquiring rather into the failure of the revenue of the afflicted provinces, than into

the means of averting the calamity which is creeping higher day by day. In point of fact, the Commission, as regards the measures to be taken against the famine, is a superfluity. If a Commission was wanted at all it should have been sent months ago, and the plan which it might have recommended should by this time have been in a complete shape, ready to be put in operation. But it is very difficult to believe that a Commission, even at that time, was really called for, when it is remembered that the most ample information has been furnished to the Porte by Abdul Rahman Pasha from Angora, by Essad Pasha from Koniah, and by Mahmoud Pasha from Adana. This information, with that which has appeared in our columns (and which, be it remarked, has been found sufficient, without any "Commission," to stir private charity into action) was quite enough to convince the Porte of two facts; first, that there had been a terrible famine in 1873; secondly, that if measures to provide against it were not taken, there would be a worse famine in 1874. And yet nothing has been done, but to send out a Commission at the eleventh hour, to spin out in talk the few days that remain for action.

What more in the way of facts can the Government require to stir it to activity? Bread in Angora at this moment is 5 piastres per oke, just four times its normal price; the population has been living chiefly during the summer upon vegetables and fruits, and this resource will fail with the first frosts; there is only a tenth of the average crop of grain; the people have lost everything they possessed, and hundreds of villages are depopulated. What more can the Commission tell? details of individual suffering, of the general ruin, of the industrial disorganisation, of the terrible scenes of last winter and of the still more terrible scenes in store for this one. Doubtless there is much

of this kind yet to be told, but these details, although historically useful, are not necessary to constitute or even to complete the motive for action. The broad facts which are patent to the world at large are patent also to the Porte, and it will be a deplorable stain upon the reputation which the present Government, by its financial policy, has justly earned for wisdom and foresight, if it do not deal with those facts in a masterly and efficient manner.

Private charity would supplement no doubt the measures which the Government may or ought to take. But charity is not to be relied upon to reorganise a society which fiscal misgovernment has broken up. Charity will not institute relief works, and present the State with the roads or railways which they will produce, nor will charity put new oxen and implements into the destitute peasants' hands, that they may once more earn tithes and taxes for the Government. Charity will mitigate much suffering that would necessarily escape the broad and general measures of relief which it is the duty of the State to organise ; it will help the sick, the widows, and the children ; it will give food to-day to those who, without it, would be numbered with to-morrow's dead. But it cannot take the place of the Government. Famine has been brought into a land of plenty by bad government, and only good government can drive it out again. The opportunity of abolishing the bad and adopting the good is in the hands of the Grand Vizier.

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On the 1st Oct. the *Levant Herald* gave the welcome news that Mr. George Crawshay, head of the well-known firm of Messrs. Hawks, Crawshay and Co., ironmasters, of Gateshead-upon-Tyne,



then on a visit to Constantinople, had deposited the munificent gift of LS. 500 with Messrs. Lebet, bankers of this city, as a nucleus for the formation of a new fund for the relief of the sufferers in the famine districts in Asia Minor. The persistence of that journal in urging the Government to action drew down upon it a somewhat stern rebuke from the *Bureau de la Presse*, and the following justification of its own view of the case appeared in the *Levant Herald* of 2nd Oct. :—

Remarks which have been made by the *Bureau de la Presse* upon our article of Tuesday last upon the famine call for a word of explanation. The theory that this disaster is to be looked upon as a “visitation of Providence,” in the same sense as an earthquake is so regarded, we reject. The calamity in Asia Minor is nothing more nor less than the fall of a house, from which, for long years past, the proprietor has been taking away the supports and foundations little by little, and neglecting to protect it by other props. A breeze of wind which would not have hurt the house if the owner had not weakened it, blows it about the ears of the inmates. For the inmates the fall of the house is a calamity; but for the landlord who deprived it of its stability, it is only the natural consequence of the mismanagement of his property. So with the famine. The ruin and starvation which attend the famine are to the immediate sufferers what is usually termed a visitation of Providence. But they are also the direct consequence of the vicious economical system which the Government, until now, has pursued, and which has undermined the social and industrial forces of the country;

so that the first breath of adversity scatters them to the winds. It is not now a question of throwing blame on the existing Ministry. First, because it would be unjust to hold the actual Government, which has been in power for eight months, responsible for the misgovernment of centuries. Secondly, because it would not help the matter if it could be proved that the Grand Vizier himself was personally to blame for the famine. Our object is not to find fault, but to do such good as we may, by submitting our view of the responsibilities and duties of the Ministry under the present affliction, and of the relation of that affliction to the past government of the country. We object to the "visitation of Providence" theory, because it is both a false and a feeble view of the case. The world learns more by pain than by pleasure. The most wholesome lessons as well in the lives of individuals, as of nations, are taught by affliction, and the affliction from which Turkey is now suffering is eloquent in teaching. What, then, we desire is, that this teaching may not be in vain; and therefore it is that, regarding the plea of helplessness as both weak and untrue, we deprecate the lullaby theories drugged with indolence, which would envelope in supernatural mystery the disaster in Asia Minor, and deprive the country of the future advantage which is to be derived from its lessons if conscientiously studied and acted upon by the light of common sense.

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Letters from Adana and Angora respectively dated Sept. 20 and Sept. 30 were the next contributions to the history of the famine :—

The Porte seems to have taken into earnest consideration the case of the suffering people in the interior. About a fortnight ago orders were telegraphed to the authorities here to

lay a general prohibition upon the exportation of corn, and, as far as possible to facilitate the transport of the large existing surplus to the provinces of the interior.

The condition of the immigrants from Angora is improving ; but the average of deaths in the hospital is still 5 to 6 per diem. The energy and activity of Mimtaz Effendi, the *caï-macam*, and Missirly Ali Effendi, municipal president of Tarsus, really deserve mention. Although both those functionaries have been pulled down by fever, they have been moving in every direction, in accordance with the *vali's* instructions, gathering together the sick and sending them to the hospitals. About 120 orphans and 250 helpless and destitute women and old men have thus been assisted. Accommodation for them has been found in the Seraglio yard under the immediate supervision of the municipality. They have been clothed, and are being fed at the expense of the townspeople. Each guild, each profession, each class, is compelled to feed them for one day. There are 32 guilds at Tarsus ; and it is hoped that in 32 days the cotton crop will be ripe, when all the immigrants, even to the women and children, will find employment. In addition to the help procured in Tarsus, much assistance has come in from the villages. Mimtaz Effendi has been in person to all the villages of his district, collecting subscriptions in corn from the peasant proprietors. With regard to the unfortunate infants left destitute by the death of their parents, I believe that a certain number will be placed in the *Islahané* at Adana ; others will be distributed amongst charitable persons, of whom, no doubt, many will be found willing to take charge of one or two orphans.

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ANGORA, Sept. 30.

The state of this province during the last eighteen months resembles that of a patient for whose relief numerous doctors and various medicines are tried in succession, the only result being that the malady gets worse rather than better. At last, however, there is some prospect of the true nature of the disorder being understood and the vigorous remedies requisite being applied. The Porte seems to have decided to postpone



all further action till the report of Commission No. 2 (as you designate it), was received, but that report proving, as it must have done, that all recent accounts of the dismal state of affairs were within rather than beyond the truth, no further delay in taking measures of relief seems to be contemplated. That commission arrived ten days ago and has been sitting ever since; they expect to complete their investigations in a few days and then proceed to Yozgat and Kighserais. The members on their way here could not fail to see enough to satisfy them of the depopulated condition of much of the province they passed through, and the deplorable condition of the few peasantry remaining. The facts and statistics prepared for their investigation, and which have already appeared in your Angora correspondence, were found in perfect order and were verified to their satisfaction. Their report being to this effect, the reply of the Grand Vizier has been received in a series of telegrams showing that he at least realizes the urgency of the case. The requisite quantity of wheat needed to succour the utterly destitute and maintain them during the rigours of winter, estimated at 240,000 bushels, has been contracted for, and is to be forwarded with as little delay as possible, one half *via* Ismidt and the rest by way of Sinope or some other Black Sea port; further, 44,000 pair of oxen for agricultural purposes will be sent on shortly, 3,000 pair to be distributed gratis amongst the poorest of the villagers, the balance to be disposed of on contract, their repayment to be spread over a number of years according to the means of the recipients. The Pasha's proposal to reduce the sheep and goat tax has also been approved, the reduction to take effect for a period of six years. For all these concessions the decrees are on the way, but, better than all, the commission has unanimously agreed to recommend that the railway works should be resumed between Ismidt and Angora as soon as spring weather makes it practicable. As has been frequently pointed out in your columns, this last measure is the great requisite for the development and prosperity of the province.

From the foregoing, it will be seen that as far as decrees, arrangements and recommendations are concerned, the central

and local Governments have at last been roused to a sense of their duty and are prepared to do it, and it is to be hoped that these much required measures of relief will be carried into effect with the same energy and spirit with which they have been initiated. It must not be supposed, however, that these official measures have removed all necessity for the exercise of private charity and benevolence. There is a mass of misery, destitution and suffering which these measures rarely reach, and the limits of a newspaper contribution would be far exceeded were I to attempt to go into details.

Every day one hears of the most painful cases of parents and bread-winners sinking under their difficulties and succumbing to disease or despair; of widows and little ones left to the precarious help of private charity, absolutely without resources of any kind, and often overwhelmed with debt; and whilst such cases are frequent in town, where the conditions of life are easier and help available, they are still more numerous in the villages and districts beyond, where succour, meanwhile at least, there is none.

It is such cases that private bounty can best reach and alleviate, so let no one who feels induced to contribute withdraw because official machinery happens to be in motion. The need is still great and urgent, and it is in such cases that the axiom must be borne in mind that "he gives twice who gives quickly."

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The *Levant Herald* of 18th Oct., further enlarged upon the position as follows :—

The history of the famine in Asia Minor has, during the past week, entered upon a new phase. The Government has, there seems reason to believe, been so impressed by the report of the Commission recently despatched to the scene of suffering, that it now recognises the existence of a national affliction and, at the same time, the duty of the State to take measures to counteract its effects. The press, there-

fore, in approaching the subject, has at least the satisfaction of feeling that it is not preaching in the desert, but that it is co-operating with the Government, and in some sort, contributing to the attainment of ends which have not only a humanitarian, but a political value. Had the Government really failed, as was feared, to comprehend the import of the deadly power which is undermining the social system of some of its best endowed and most settled provinces, it is impossible to calculate where the evil might have stopped, or to what disasters the social disorganisation of a part, might have brought upon the whole, of Asiatic Turkey. The Government has, however, braced itself to the task; somewhat late, it is true, so that the measures adopted will not have the same efficacy that they would have had six months ago; but, at all events, the famished population will see that it has a standby in the Government, and that the State does not, like the ex-governor of Angora, call upon it to die submissively of starvation, because such is the will of God. At the same time, the impulses of private charity are no longer daunted by a sense of the utter hopelessness of rendering effectual aid in a wide district, 40,000 square miles in extent, bereft of all Governmental support. The prospects in the famine districts have, therefore, greatly brightened since last we wrote upon the subject, and we can only pray the Government in its own interest, and in the interests of humanity, to follow up with all vigour the wise course upon which it has decided. The Commission is still at Angora, and the Government has yet to receive the reports upon the other stricken provinces; but, gloomy as these accounts will be, they will not discourage the Government. The Turks are slow to act; but when they are once roused to action, the powerful latent energy which they possess seldom fails to display itself, and the old courage wakes



up in all its strength when necessity calls it out of slumber.

And now let us briefly take account of what it is proposed to do, of what has been actually done, and of what, out of hope's ample proposition, may really be accomplished. The Commission endorses the estimate made by Abdul Rahman Pasha, the able and intelligent governor of Angora, and states that that province alone will require 240,000 kilehs (bushels) of breadstuffs to feed the people up to next harvest, and that 44,000 pairs of oxen must be brought into the province in order to furnish the means of tillage. The Porte accepts this view, and undertakes to supply the grain and the oxen. As regards the grain, the tithe of the vilayët of the Danube, which is estimated to yield 460,000 kilehs, has been sent apart for the above purpose, and tonnage, for upwards of a third of this quantity, has been despatched to Varna whence the grain will be shipped and conveyed, a part to Sinope, and a part to Ismidt. It does not appear from what source it is proposed to draw the remaining 80,000 kilehs. The shortest and surest way would be to purchase it in the Danube. The question of land carriage is one which will demand careful treatment at the hands of the Government. The 240,000 kilehs, weighing 6,000 tons, will have to be divided into at least 60,000 pack-loads in order to admit of their transport from the sea coast to the scene of the famine, and certainly no less than 40,000 beasts of burden will be required for this object, mules, horses and camels. When the last supplies were sent up to the famine districts a fatal error was committed in impressing beasts of burden for the service; the muleteers and camel drivers fled to avoid the *corvée*, and the usually available means of carriage disappeared. In the present case, looking at the great weight to be transported, the surest way

would be to draw up a specification (*cahier des charges*) and publicly invite tenders in accordance therewith.

Now, as regards the 14,000 pairs of oxen to be supplied to the province of Angora, while believing in the best intentions of the Government to furnish them, we strongly doubt if it will be found possible to place them in due season at the disposal of the cultivators in that district. Up to the present time only between 2,500 and 3,000 pairs of oxen have been purchased. These have been found in the province of Trebizond, but a cattle-murrain has broken out in that locality, and it therefore no longer affords a safe market. A certain proportion of the cattle purchased has already reached Angora and been distributed, but the details of this part of the operation are as yet wanting. The season, however, is so far advanced that, beyond the cattle already purchased, it will not be possible to bring from distant parts a supply of able-bodied oxen fit to work through the winter before that season bars the roads. The Government might therefore, wisely defer this part of its scheme till the spring. Meanwhile, however, there will be a large amount of labour-force unemployed in tillage. Still this force must be fed; and inasmuch as it will devolve upon the Government to feed it, the Government, whilst sustaining, should also utilise, that force for the benefit of the State. True, the winter is not the best season for railway works; but, although labour can be more advantageously employed in summer than in winter, it does not follow that it should not be employed at all in the latter season. It would be more economical to obtain a short day's labour in exchange for food given than to obtain nothing at all, and it would be far better that the people should work for the food they receive than eat the bread of idleness. The wages must be paid whether or no, the food must be given; and it would be a miscalculation to

reject such labour as may be obtained in exchange because it may not be a full equivalent for the bread supplied. In our opinion, then, the Angora Railway works should be proceeded with *immediately*, and employment offered upon them to all that need it. Possibly the progress made between this time and April would not be very great, but, in the meantime, the works would have been organised, the people would have learnt the art of road building and become expert, and in the ensuing fine season the works would advance without a check. If, on the other hand, the railway question is shelved till the spring, not only will much valuable time and labour-force be wasted and absolutely lost, but the spring and summer months will be spent in organisation, and the winter of 1875 would see little real progress.

And supposing that the Government should be able to accomplish all that its friends desire and its best councillors advise, what then remains for charity to do? Unfortunately more, we fear, than the largest and most generous aid will be able to compass. The State promises bread—more it cannot be asked to do; but the people are naked and houseless as well as starving; there is sickness; there are thousands of families in which the men have died and only the women and children remain. Provided, then, that the Government adhere firmly to its promise to supply bread, and thus lay the spectre of starvation, private charity liberally bestowed, will render vast service in supplementing the bounty of the State by gifts of money to repair dwellings, of fuel, of clothing, of medicines, of food for the sick and enfeebled more nourishing than bare bread. Such is the nature of the help which private charity may be trusted to bestow, added to the moral assistance which it will render in rousing the people from their despondency. But everything depends upon the efficacy of the measures taken by the State



to supply bread. If these are tardy or insufficient, or ill-arranged, the foe will have it all his own way ; the resources of private charity will be swallowed up in vain, and, as they fail, a despondency deeper than ever will fall upon the remnant of the people ; want will drive them from their homes in search of succour, and nothing that charitable effort can do will prevent depopulation of the whole province. A movement is already on foot to bring the Asia Minor Famine to the more general notice of the charitable, and little doubt can be entertained that a liberal response will be obtained to the appeal which will be made. But the more general the charitable movement, the more will it become necessary for the Government, in its own interest, to acquit itself of its trying duties in connection with the famine with energy and thoroughness. As to the local administration of the aid furnished by the State, as far as the province of Angora is concerned, every confidence may be felt. The governor Abdul Rahman Pasha, has proved himself to be the right man in the right place, and has displayed the highest qualities in his single handed endeavours to grapple with the difficulties of the situation in which he has been placed.

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The communications which follow conclude the history of the famine of 1873-1874. The story of the famine of 1874-1875 begins at this point, and is told briefly as far as it goes in our concluding pages :—

SIR,—The writer is in communication with the little Protestant community at Istanosz, near Angora. A letter signed by three of their principal men, gratefully acknowledges a few pounds of aid furnished by British and American friends

in Constantinople, Broussa and Angora; after which they make the following statement in regard to their present condition:

“Only about one in five of us was able to sow the past season; and that, for want of rain, produced but little. As no one has any money to buy, our trades are of no use, and we stand idle. Some of us have already sold our houses and furniture and consumed the proceeds. Others would gladly do the same, and dispose of property for one-fourth its usual value, but there are no purchasers. Unable to sell, we are breaking up our houses, and disposing of the wood to the bakeries for daily bread. We and our children, hungry, naked and barefooted, wander about in extreme wretchedness. We would gladly forsake our homes and seek subsistence elsewhere, but have no money to hire animals to carry us, or to buy food for the way. We can only spread out our hands to heaven and implore the compassion of a merciful God.”

The condition of multitudes of other villages in the same region, if delineated, would doubtless furnish a picture even sadder than this.—I am, etc.,

S. RICHARDSON.

Broussa, Oct. 7.

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SIR,—A letter from which I am permitted to quote, has just been received from Mr. Farnsworth, of Cæsarea, who has visited anew a part of the Anatolia famine district, and I am sure the facts observed by him will interest many besides the Government.

Speaking especially of the region of Shgdjé and Ak-Serai, he says that the grain crop is *less* than he anticipated when reporting to your paper last June. The yield is vastly below the needs of even the diminished population. The people of Yeni-Bounar, on Hassan-Dagh, stated to him that if all their grain was divided among the inhabitants it would not last through November. And yet these people are in better condition than those of the neighbouring villages who are fleeing. The movement of the people from the blighted region has not been checked because there is hardly a hope for the future,

and the people despair not only because of famine, but because of taxation. For it seems that by some inconceivable misunderstanding, the orders which, according to the *Levant Herald*, were issued relative to the taxes, were not promptly put in force, for less than three weeks ago the taxes were being relentlessly collected in the district under observation. That is to say, the order not to collect must have arrived only after the last possible sum had been already collected. For the local governments have been dependent upon the taxes for funds to exist, and the *mutessarifliks* in turn, have been compelled to demand money from these local governors, *mudirs* and *caïmacams*, to meet the drafts from vilayet headquarters. Mr. Farnsworth states that while he was at Ak-Serai, an order came to the high official who was superintending the collection of taxes in that region, instructing him to send several hundred thousand piastres of the proceeds of his operations to the *saltpetre works at Koniah!* And this, while refugees from the villages under taxation were dying in the streets of Ak-Serai of starvation, before his very eyes, just as they have been dying, four or five in a day, for the last three months!

It is hard to picture the process of taxation under such circumstances, but Mr. Farnsworth describes the whole wretched business. First comes the man for the fruit tax, and he forces from the people *in money*, never in kind, the value he chooses to put upon the tithe of the fruit of vineyards and orchards. Next comes the man who measures from the little heap of grain, one-eighth, and carries that off, to the very last kernel, even though the whole may perhaps be less than will suffice to keep alive, through the winter, the wretched farmer's wretched family. While the poor creatures are still undecided whether to plant for next year and risk starvation now, or to eat their corn now and risk starvation next year, there comes another tax gatherer, who demands in full of the income (*salyau*) tax.

Mr. Farnsworth describes one village—Edigie near Nigdé—reduced in population from 43 “houses” to 26, and yet required to pay the same tax (6,800 piastres) as was assessed on



the village in its best days. Money or no money, this must be paid ! Mr. F. describes hearing at another village the crier proclaim, " If you have oxen, or donkeys, or sheep, or corn, or grain, take to Bor and sell and pay your taxes ! " This was at Ooloukushla, also near Nigdé, where many have already died from starvation, and whence you will not be surprised to learn that there is an emigration of those who would escape the same fate.

We read a few days since that the Government was going to bring oxen from a great distance for these people, and you can see that the oxen will be needed to supply the place of those sold for taxes. But the misery of it is that they are needed *now*. They ought to be at work ploughing. Indeed, in some few cases immediately about Koniah, oxen have been given to the villagers, and some seed wheat may have been distributed in the same region. But the wheat taken by the *ushurjis* is needed for seed everywhere. Mr. F. states that in one village the people begged the tax gatherers to sell back to them the *eighth* taken, in order that they might have to sow, but in vain.

The relief sent has evidently failed from some cause to be effectual. Mr. Farnsworth again bears testimony to the terrible fact that in the remote regions visited the poorest and most needy are the ones who receive nothing ; and now the time is almost passed for hoping to get them anything. But, although this is so, and although the smaller villages are already destroyed, let us hope that the famine may not be left to end as the fire ends which has burned itself out.—I am, etc.,

D.

Stamboul, Oct. 14.

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ADANA, Sept 29.

The flood of immigration has now almost subsided ; the air has become cooler and the general health of the country is improved. The survivors of the emigrant host that crossed the Taurus a few weeks ago have been removed from the towns to the villages where, in agricultural labour, they will be better able to pick up a livelihood.

With regard to the prohibition to export grain from this province, I mentioned a short while ago that Mahmoud Pasha accorded a delay of eleven days to all the ships in port to complete their cargoes. The delay expired on the 21st inst., but before it had elapsed, some more ships, chartered previously to the prohibition, arrived in port, and hence arose much confusion. The telegraph offices were flooded with messages and the Government offices with protests, for there were many merchants who had bought up wheat and barley in the province and resold for France and England. Some of the ships chartered by them had come, and others were expected. The British and French vice-consuls telegraphed the facts to their embassies, and the governor-general has received, in consequence, orders to act as he should judge best. I believe his Highness has not allowed any interruption to the shipping of cargoes on board of ships already chartered. But he will of course show no such indulgence to ships that may come seeking cargoes of grain. A commission is to be formed to ascertain the quantity of corn remaining *en dépôt*, which will still be large. The commission will also attend to the claims of the foreign merchants by ascertaining the amount which they have purchased and the number of vessels they have chartered.

I hear that a petition, signed by more than 2,000 people, has been presented to the governor-general begging his Highness to use his influence with the Government to induce it to allow the exportation of wheat. But Mahmoud Pasha has neither the power nor the desire to have the prohibition annulled. Had not the present measures been taken, no grain would have been left, three months hence, for the relief of the stricken provinces, and prices would probably have risen beyond measure. I may here remark that it is upon the regions actually suffering from famine that the trade—both import and export—of our ports depends. The province of Koniah, and all the country north of us as far as Cæsarea and Yozgat have been accustomed, for thirty years past, to supply us with that white and tender grain which is known in Europe as Caramanian wheat, and which until last year has been the

staple article of export from Adana. Indeed, many a time when the crop in the province was short, the Caramanian wheat supplied the deficiency. It is, therefore, only just that not only the agriculturists but also the merchants of Adana should now come to the assistance of the neighbours to whom they have been so often indebted.

The Rev. Dr. Thomson begs gratefully to acknowledge a further remittance of LS. 430 from Messrs. MacLaren and Macniven of Edinburgh, for the relief of the sufferers from famine in the region of Cæsarea. The money will be sent, as directed, to the American Mission there, to be distributed by the office-bearers of the Rev. K. Yakoubian's congregation.

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## APPENDIX.

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[From the *Levant Herald*, Dec. 16,]

### MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN RELIEF COMMITTEE.

At the weekly meeting of the Central Relief Committee, held at her Majesty's Consulate in Constantinople on Tuesday the 8th instant, there were present, the Hon. George Boker, minister of the United States, president; Sir Philip Francis, her Majesty's consul-general and judge; M. A. Lebet, banker; the Rev. Dr. Thomson, Mr. J. R. Thomson, etc. Letters were read from Angora, Kaiserieh, and and Koniah, and it was resolved to send a sum of LT. 1,000 to Koniah, to be distributed by Mr. Astardji, the local agent there of Mr. J. R. Thomson, under the advice of the governor-general of Koniah.

### PROCEEDINGS OF THE TURKISH RELIEF COMMITTEE.

The President of the Central (Turkish) Committee of Relief informs us that the latest advices from the famine districts are more reassuring. The supplies sent by the Commission to these districts having reached their destination, the price of bread there has fallen considerably. The ports of Ismidt and Samsoun are the two principal starting points of the caravans leaving for the interior. From Ismidt the transport, it appears, is effected without much difficulty;

the agents of the Commission in that town have 5,000 camels at their disposal, and have consequently been able to send to the interior the whole of the grain given by the Khédive, amounting to 50,000 kilehs, besides the greater portion of the 150,000 kilehs furnished by the Government. Samsoun is inferior to Ismidt as regards means of transport; but the Commission, having made strong representations to the authorities there, believes that the transit of grain from there to the interior will in future be attended with fewer difficulties. At the beginning of the Committee's labours, the reports which it received from the famine districts stated that 500,000 kilehs of grain would be required for seed and for consumption until the next harvest. It was then settled that one half of this amount should be furnished by Mesopotamia and Kurdistan; of the remaining half, 200,000 kilehs have until now been supplied by the Government, and the 50,000 kilehs still wanting are to be collected in the valley of the Danube, in time, the Committee hopes, to reach Anatolia before the roads become impassable. As regards the distribution of succour, the arrangements made by the Committee bear evidence of considerable forethought. Three or four centres of distribution have been established in each province; the governor-general has to decide, from his knowledge of the relative wants of each district in his jurisdiction, to which distributing centre each convoy of supplies, on its arrival from the coast, is to be sent. The grain thus supplied is not distributed gratuitously to all recipients. These latter are divided into three classes, viz., those who have the means of buying, at moderate prices, the wheat which they require; those who receive wheat on credit, and bind themselves to pay for it later on in money; finally, those who are entirely destitute and who receive gratuitous succour. Agriculturists have been further divided into two categories, to wit, those who, having saved an ox or a horse, a plough or other agricultural implement, are still able to till a portion of their land; these people receive, besides the wheat necessary for their present support, grain for sowing; the second category is composed of individuals who have saved nothing, and who only receive the wheat necessary to feed them. The present famine has been the means of showing the extreme poverty to which the Turkish peasant is reduced; possessing not one para of capital, the failure of his crop brings him to utter ruin; for he has not then the means of buying bread, were it even sold at 10 paras an oke. The urban population have been able to resist the effects of this dire calamity better than their rural brethren, most of the small traders and

workmen having luckily laid by a few piastres for the rainy day. As a proof of this, some Israelite workmen who, on the approach of the famine, had immigrated from Angora to Stamboul, lately petitioned the Famine Committee to be enabled to return to their country. The Famine Committee has addressed a request to the Ministry of Public Works that, as soon as the season is sufficiently favourable, the railway works, or some similar public enterprises, may be carried out, so that those who have escaped from the famine may find employment.

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[From the *Levant Herald*, Dec. 23.]

MEETING OF THE CENTRAL RELIEF COMMITTEE.

*Painful Details.*

At the weekly meeting of the Central Relief Committee held on Tuesday, the 15th inst., at her Majesty's Consulate, further subscriptions were announced. Letters were read from the Rev. Mr. Bartlett, of Talas, near Cæsarea, from Mrs. Bartlett, from the Rev. Mr. Leonard, of Marsovan, and others, on the actual condition of the famine districts. Mr. Pericli Vassilionis, Mr. J. R. Thomoon's agent at Sivri-Hissar, who had just arrived in Constantinople, gave a distressing account of the sufferings of the people in that locality, and in view of the state of things disclosed, the Committee decided to send at once a sum of LT. 550 to Sivri-Hissar, to be distributed by the head of the local Armenian Committee there, Hadji Stephan Tehelgian, who, for that purpose, is to associate himself with Beshtash Mehemet Effendi, the Turkish *fukara vekili*, or guardian of the poor, of Sivri-Hissar, and reputed to be an experienced and excellent man.

The following are extracts from the correspondence read at the meeting of the Central Relief Committee above referred to :—

The Rev. Mr. Bartlett, of Talas, writes under date of Dec. 3 :—

During the past week we continued to give about 20 paras per day, each, to those applying for aid, requiring in all cases a testimonial from one of three of the most reliable business men of the city. We thus distributed here in Talas alone about 1,400 piastres. The news of aid having spread extensively, Armenians, Greeks and Turks have been flocking to us from all parts. We have been surprised to learn the great amount of suffering which these few days have revealed. In a few instances we may have been deceived, but nearly all the crowd which came surging in upon us were wretchedly



poor. Many have sold nearly or quite all they had in the house, even to the last bed. Many widows, with large families of children and no means of support left them, have pleaded with tears for aid. Many tell us, with tears streaming down their haggard faces, that they have eaten no bread for several days, "But what have you eaten"? we inquire. "We have lived on *carrots*", they reply. Heart-rending are the tales which we are obliged to hear daily, but the saddest part of it is that the pinch has but just begun. Winter is fast approaching, and with no store of flour, or meat or fuel, and no possible means of earning anything, while in many cases even the beds have been sold from under the starving children, the prospects are fearful. Indeed, I learn to-day from a member of the medjliss in the city of Cæsarea that the Government will help the poor, and that they have been enrolled in four grades, to two of whom flour will be sold, to the third, lent, and to the fourth, given. As yet, however, no aid has been given, and the prospect is not encouraging for the large class who will soon be in absolute want. I learn to-day also that some 1,600 batmans of flour are in the hands of the Armenians of Talas for distribution, but where or in what way it will be distributed I cannot learn. Thus far the Greeks appear to have done nothing for their poor. There is much want in the villages, near Cæsarea. In the large territory lying to the north of Cæsarea, called the "Bozouk" region, and, in fact, in nearly all the villages lying north and west, the prospect is very discouraging. Within the last two months I have made a journey to Samsoun and back, and have had a good opportunity to learn something of the present condition of the regions through which I passed. On my way to Marsovan I spent a night at the Turkish village of Dishli. Before the famine this village contained about 70 families. Now, only 30 are left, and of these 10 have no grain, and no means of support, and must soon flee for their lives. Another village, called Ortakeui, on the road from Amasia to Yozgat, has lost 45 persons by death from starvation, and at least half the population are utterly destitute. Yet even during Ramazan the zaptiés came, and took away by force for taxes the "boolgoor", cracked wheat, and other food which the poor villagers had prepared for their winter's support. But few of the people have been able to sow this fall, for want of seed, or cattle, or both. The same destitution prevails in the villages of the "Bozook" region. In the village of Injirli, out of 70 Armenian families not more than 15, and out of 12 Protestant families, not more than 4, can support themselves, and this is one of the best wheat-growing towns in all the province. The same terrible facts stare us in the face whichever way we turn. The aid needed to carry these destitute thousands over till another harvest is so *great*, that private benevolence cannot relieve even a tithe of the suffering. I have just heard from the village of Chamakli, situated on the southern slope of Mount Argeus. Last year the crops of this village were good, but this year they were very poor, and now out of 60 houses in one section of the village not more than 6 can possibly live through the winter without help. You inquire about the *wants* of the people in this great central province. I reply that even to save thousands from *actual starvation*, we need all we can possibly get, and then shall have a wide margin left. Mr. Farnsworth has

been absent for eight days on a trip to Siwas, but is expected back on Monday. We shall then endeavour to form definite plans of working for the future. We are rejoiced to learn by a telegram to-day that L. 275 more have been sent us, to be distributed without regard to creed or nationality. We have thus far made no distinctions, and could not without awakening prejudice. The famine is a wonderful *leveller*. The very proudest Greeks, Armenians and Turks are humbled by hunger, and are glad enough to receive aid from any hands.

Mrs. Bartlett writes on the same date to a friend who had sent her some money for relief purposes:—

We thought when your money came that we could tell you just where it kept people alive, but yours has gone in with the rest for the 175 families whom we are assisting this week in this town of Talas alone. You may think of your money as feeding a sick woman and her two children; or two blind women, one a Mussulman and the other a Greek; or furnishing medicine to a dozen sick ones, who have no better physicians than Mrs. Farnsworth and myself; or one dollar of it giving meat to a boy whom God has raised up from the borders of the grave; or to give bread to the family of nine who had not tasted bread for two days, or to the family of five who had not eaten bread for five days, both families having lived on a species of purple carrot usually given to animals. So far we have given only for bread, but soon we shall be obliged to give for fuel too, for it makes but little difference to a man whether he freezes to death or starves.

The Rev. Mr. Leonard writes from Marsovan on Dec. 7:—

I have received your telegram of the 2nd inst. authorising me to draw on you for LT. 275 for impartial disbursement among the distressed of all nationalities in this *sandjak*, and will act according to your direction. We have been supplying soup and bread daily from our houses for several months to the distressed strangers in Marsovan, all of whom are Mussulmans. I cannot learn that the Government is doing anything whatever for them, although the rich lords of the soil are abundantly able to supply all their wants. From my agents in Amasia, Hadji-Keui, Geumush-Maden, and other places I learn of great destitution, and you will soon have the thanks of the distressed for this timely relief.

The following is the substance of the report made to the Committee by its agent at Sivri-Hissar of the condition of the people in that town and the surrounding region:—

The *kaimakamlik* of Sivri-Hissar lies between Angora, Eski-Sheir and Koutaya, the local products being mohair and opium, and the principal manufacture the woollen socks known in the market as Sivri-Hissar tchouraps. The district includes the town and some twenty villages. The town alone has about 3,500 families, of whom some 2,000 are Turks and 1,500 Armenians. The distress has been and continues most acute, and the Turks suffer even more than the Christians. The whole population of the *kaimakamlik* endured



great distress during the famine of last year, and are in deeper misery this year through having sold everything that was saleable. There are many houses in which absolutely every article has been sold, except one quilt under which the whole family huddle at night. In the midst of last winter many of the poorer classes sold their children, of the age of ten to fourteen, for a few piastres to those who were better off, rather than see them starve. But this year the famine strikes the class above, and those who, last year, were rejoiced to be able to buy a stout useful child for eighteenpence, are now driven to turn their bargains out of doors, unable any longer to find food for them. Most distressing instances consequently arise of starvation; children are found, wandering about abandoned, and "this very day," says the report, "the public crier is trying to find some one to claim a wretched starveling who was sold last year, and has now been turned adrift, his parents having died in the interval." The local authorities have made efforts to stay the tide of famine, but they have been insufficient for the crisis. The intent is to give 100 drams of grain per day to every destitute person, but this relief actually reaches only about 2,500, and the remainder of the population are constrained to go about begging amongst neighbours who are nearly as badly off as themselves. The Turks were the largest cattle owners, but these cattle have died, and they are now without resources. Goats'-meat is to be had for about 3 p. per oke on the mountains, and it would be a great relief if more of this could be purchased, without interfering with the *tiftiks*, for distribution amongst the starving. The kileh of wheat is now at from 70 to 75 piastres, with the lira at 130. Fifty-nine pairs of oxen have been already distributed by the authorities, and some eight kilehs of wheat per head given to a number of people for sowing; 600 small cultivators drew lots for the oxen to use for tillage. The authorities desire to give cattle to all in need of them, and have their price repaid at the rate of 1,500 piastres per pair, the repayment being taken by instalments spread over a period of three years. The roads are not passable in winter, and the district is almost wholly closed in when the two rivers, the Kutayia Sir and Sakaria river, overflow their banks as they did last year. The population at present drags on a half existence upon ground wheat boiled in water, known as *boulmatch*, and the people are weak, wasting away for want of proper sustenance, and are scarcely capable of labour. It will require at least 10,000 kilehs of wheat to tide the population of Sivri-Hissar and its twenty villages over the winter poorly but safely.

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[From the *Levant Herald*, Dec. 30.]

At the weekly meeting of the Central Relief Committee held on Tuesday, the 22nd inst., at the British Consulate, under the presidency of the Hon. George Boker, minister of the United States, the following letters received from Angora, Talas, and Kaiserieh, were read :—



Its Angora correspondent, writing on Dec. 16, informs the Committee that

On Saturday and Monday last, the distribution of fuel and clothing ordered by your committee was effected with complete success and without accident, though the pressure was so great that it was thought prudent to post a guard of soldiery at the gates, which precaution obviated any accident. By means of orders, nearly six hundred families of the town and neighbouring villages were relieved. It was feared that such a thoroughly European idea as printed orders would not be comprehended by an Eastern population, but it worked perfectly well. The slips were distributed the day before to the heads of the various committees, or rather to the *vekil* which each community has appointed to attend to the interest of the poor, and they received their quota in proportion to the number they had on their poor-roll. It was thought better to make these parties responsible for the distribution, and that the poor people should come to the Angora Committee for the relief, so that the latter might satisfy themselves that the funds entrusted to them reached those they were intended to relieve. Of course care was taken that any poor families personally known to members of the Committee were included in the lists made out by each community. Abundant evidence existed that the distribution was judicious; no mere words can convey an idea of the misery, suffering, and despair stamped on the famine-stricken faces that filed past during these two days, each receiving the succour the Committee was able to give them. Each and all of these communities relieved, desired to convey to your Committee their fervent thanks for the succour afforded their destitute poor.

*Local communities relieved :*

1. Turkish.	Angora and adjacent villages.
2. Armenian Catholic.	Angora only.
3. Protestant Armenians.	Angora and Istanos.
4. Armenians.	Angora and villages.
5. Greek.	Angora only.
6. Jewish.	Angora only.

From Talas, the news up to Dec. 10, is to the following effect:—

I am just home from a trip of 15 days in which I have visited Sivas, Moonjassoon, Gemerek, Roomdigin, and other towns. In many places I found the suffering much greater than I had anticipated. Gemerek is on the border of the famine region, and yet the high prices so long continued have quite exhausted the means of the people, and starvation now stares them in the face. I promised, on my return home, to send aid to that community, including Moslems, Armenians and Protestants, to the amount of 65 liras. Roomdigin is also in great need, and to its several communities I promised aid to the amount of 31 liras. On Saturday next (Dec. 12) I am to go to the town of Choumakli, where about 45 per cent. of the whole population are in need of aid. Indeed, not less than 100 Turkish pounds are necessary to keep the people in this little village of 850 souls from actual starvation during the winter. The condition of things in Talas grows worse week by week, and

must continue to do so until next June, when the barley harvest comes in. Last Monday (Dec. 7) we made distribution in Talas (to 256 families) amounting to 12 Turkish liras; next Monday we shall need to distribute at least 15 liras, and very soon not less than 25 liras a week will be needed in Talas alone. Cæsarea needs as much more. We ought also to have at least 25 liras a week for distribution in neighbouring towns and villages, and the same amount for more remote places, namely, Nigdjé, Ak-Sarai, Soongoorloo, Yozgat, and Injirli. Please give our compliments to Sir Philip Francis, to the Rev. Dr. Thomson, and to others interested in this good work, and heartily thank them for the 150 and the 500 pounds (English) sent to us by the Famine Commission, and for the 50 pounds (Turkish) sent directly by Scotch friends. Please assure them that we shall rejoice to be their almoners in the distribution of, at the very least, 100 Turkish pounds per week. Should funds come in so as to warrant our using more, we can do so to great advantage. The above sum seems large, but let it be remembered that our population is *half a million*, and that this is the *second* year of a most remarkable famine. Nor let it be thought that the abovementioned sum will suffice to relieve the suffering population of this great province. I have indicated only what I and my associates can undertake judiciously to disburse. *Nothing* has yet been done by the Government in furnishing the promised oxen, or seed-corn, or food. The time has now passed for the first two. Never has there been a more favourable autumn for ploughing and sowing, and despite all difficulties a fine breadth has been sown. Had proper and timely aid been given, the end of the famine would have been almost certain at the coming of the new harvest.

The Kaiserieh correspondent supplements the above by saying:—

Your Talas correspondent did not have time to confer with me respecting the statements of his letter, but I certify to their correctness. I beg leave to add, however, that Cæsarea has many more poor than Talas, and that even 100 pounds a week might well be disbursed in this city alone. I have engaged a reliable man to give his whole time to the work of distribution in this city. We give regularly to families, and only after the most careful examination. Those who *ask* for help here, and in Talas, and everywhere else, are numberless.

After the reading of these letters, it was unanimously resolved by the Committee to forward immediately LT. 600 for weekly distribution at Talas and Kaiserieh.

While the Committee was sitting, the following telegram was received from Angora relating to the biscuit and flour which has been so long delayed between Ismidt and Angora, owing to the want of transport and the condition of the roads:—

“One hundred sacks of biscuit and 38 of flour have arrived, and are being distributed to-day in the town and villages with the best result.”

[*Levánt Herald*, Dec. 31.]

At the usual weekly meeting of the Central Committee on Tuesday last, letters from several agents in the famine districts were read. Of these we reproduce some *in extenso*, the remainder we summarise as follows :—

The Tchangoura correspondent states that the much dreaded consequence of famine has declared itself in the form of a malignant and fatal fever. Many hundreds of cases have already occurred, the majority being followed by death, and at least 10 deaths per diem from this cause alone are now occurring in Tchangoura.

The Sivri-Hissar correspondent (an influential Mussulman of the place) acknowledges with gratitude the aid recently forwarded by the Committee, and states that it is being dealt out by a local Committee, composed of 3 Mahometans and 3 Christians, and reports that it arrived opportunely inasmuch as deaths from famine had already begun to occur.

Another correspondent, writing from one of the villages between Angora and Yozgat, among which he has been instructed to distribute funds set apart for that district, reports that the greatest distress prevails. He had been instrumental in relieving but a small proportion of the worst cases.

The facts related in the following correspondence speak for themselves :—

Letters received from Marsovan, dated Dec. 12 and 19, state that the funds sent to that place for the relief of the poor (namely, 275 Turkish pounds from the Central Famine Relief Committee, and 57 3/4 Turkish pounds from America), had been entrusted to a Committee consisting of Dr. Schneider and Messrs. Leonard and Tracy ; that measures had been taken for the formation of a committee of three prudent and impartial men in each of the following places, viz., Hajikeui, Aykat, Amasia, and Vézir-Keopreu, for investigation and distribution ; that the committees in each of the above-named places have been requested to ascertain as quietly as possible through the *mukhtars*, merchants, and others, which are the most destitute individuals and families, making careful lists of such from each nationality, and forwarding them to the Committee at Marsovan. It is also stated that the Committee in each of the above-named places have been urged to make most strenuous efforts to secure from the wealthy inhabitants, or from the Government, aid at least equal in amount to that to be given by the Marsovan Com-



mittee. For several weeks past soup and bread have been supplied daily to many Mussulman refugees in Marsovan. On Dec. 18, a company of 36 refugees, men, women and children, were started off for their homes in the province of Angora. The Turkish governor furnished animals for the feeble ones and a zaptieh. The Relief Committee gave them food and clothing, and sent a messenger, with thirty liras in his hand, to see them comfortably provided for on reaching their homes.

A good deal of sickness prevails among all classes in Marsovan. A type of fever has appeared, perhaps not malignant, but pronounced relapsing and contagious by a physician who has come up from Amasia at our call. The Government supports physicians in many towns and cities; why should Marsovan and its neighbouring towns be left to be the prey of uneducated and unprincipled quacks? The above-mentioned physician, now resident in Amasia, is the only doctor who has a diploma in all this wide region of 10,000 square miles. Would that we could call a good physician from Constantinople to relieve our heartstrings and divide our burdens!

A letter from Mr. Farnsworth, dated Talas, Dec. 17, says:--

On the previous Monday aid was given in this place to 1,130 persons, including 503 Greeks, 459 Moslems, and 168 Armenians. Many of these were widows or women with children dependent upon them, whose husbands were absent and unable to do anything for their support. We have this week very thoroughly revised the list of those receiving aid, and have been able to reduce it but very little. Others, fearfully poor, are pressing to be enrolled. Mr. Bartlett and myself have to-day visited the neighbouring village of Stefana, containing about 1,000 souls. We called together the most influential men of the place, Greeks and Mussulmans, and made a list of those who seem to be in danger of perishing from starvation. The list numbers 23 Turkish and 16 Greek families, with an aggregate of 176 persons, of whom 100 are Moslems. We shall give aid in this village to the amount of about two liras a week. Mr. Barrows is bringing the work of distribution in the city of Caesarea into system. He has already ascertained the needs of 200 families to whom he is giving aid, and is now enrolling the poorest of the Mahommedans. He can hardly stop until he adds 300 or 400 more families to his list. The Pasha offers him every assistance that he needs in making inquiries and distributions. He will need to give at least 50 Turkish liras a week all through the winter. A few words about the general condition of things. People are not now actually dying of starvation either in Caesarea or in the immediate vicinity; but from what we see with our own eyes, we are firmly convinced that without help many must die and will die. Thousands are in a worse condition to-day than were those a year ago who perished last winter. Prices are higher than they were then. The houses of the very poor

are more destitute now than they were a year ago. The winter thus far has been very mild, but with such a winter as that a year ago, multitudes must perish, unless the Government shows a thoughtful beneficence and an efficiency, the existence of which the sufferers from famine have as yet known only through the agents sent to make inquiries. They have *inquired* about the need of oxen, but it is now the middle of Dec., and not an ox has been received from the Government by the poor in all this region. They have *inquired* about the need of seed, but not a single measure has yet been given to the poor. They have *enrolled* the people that food might be distributed to the most needy, but no distribution has yet been made. Will they act in season to prevent the depopulation of these regions, or shall we see the Bozook region left as desolate as the Keskin region, now is? With such generous sums as have been sent to us we can do something, and we will try to be faithful, but private beneficence can reach only tens, where tens of thousands may speedily need help. Encourage our friends to provide liberal things.

The Committee, taking into consideration the information supplied, determined that it was absolutely necessary to furnish medical aid to the town of Marsovan for at least three months to come, and for this purpose voted a sum of 100 liras. With regard to Tchangura, two members of the Committee undertook to ascertain whether a private practitioner could be induced to proceed thither to report upon the sanitary condition of the place, and to attend to its wants, until such time as the Government should supply an adequate medical staff.

The Grand Vizier having authorised Sir Philip Francis and Mr. Lebet to enter into communication with the Ottoman Commission of Relief, these gentlemen undertook to bring this matter to the notice of the proper authorities. Pending the result of the negotiations above alluded to, and in view of the weekly disbursements necessary at Kaiserieh, Talas, and other places, the Committee did not consider itself justified in making any further special grants this week out of the comparatively small balance at its disposal.

It was with a feeling of deep regret that the Committee compared the statements made by its own correspondents—men who represent all sections of the famine-stricken communities—with the contents of the telegrams recently sent by Omer Lufti Bey. It appeared to all the members, without exception, that the hopes contained in the telegram which this officer forwards from the governor-general of Koniah are, to say the least, premature. To hope that the cultivators of the soil, stricken down by famine and fever, with insufficient means to sustain life throughout the winter, should be able in the spring to repair their debts to Government and become the

object of taxation for the Treasury, is to hold out a delusive expectation, and one perfectly alien from the present benevolent intentions of the Imperial Government. The Committee expressed its strongest conviction that it is only by the most strenuous and sustained efforts on the part of the local authorities that the population can be rescued during the next few months from starvation, and the depopulation of immense districts be stayed. It is to these objects that the Committee directs its attention, and they are confident that the Government envoys will best ensure a prosperous future for the Treasury by strictly confining their attention for the present to the positive obligations of humanity.

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## THE FAMINE IN ASIA MINOR.

### CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF RELIEF.

---

THE HON. GEORGE BOKER, | SIR PHILIP FRANCIS,  
United States Minister. | H.B.M.'s Con. Gen. and Judge.  
A. LEBET, Esq., Banker.

#### *Bankers:*

A. LEBET, Esq., CONSTANTINOPLE.  
THE IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK,  
CONSTANTINOPLE, LONDON, and PARIS.  
MESSRS. C. S. HANSON and Co., CONSTANTINOPLE.

#### *Honorary Secretaries:*

M. H. FOSTER, Esq., C.B. | W. H. WRENCH, Esq.

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The most distressing accounts continue to reach the Committee as to the prospects for the coming winter. The crops are scarcely a tenth of the average, and the food supply is therefore short to the extent of a million of bushels of grain. Low typhus and other forms of disease, incidental to famine, are spreading, chiefly amongst the aged, the feeble, and the young. Not only bread is wanting, but fuel, shelter, and clothing, for in their misery last year, the famished poor sold their clothes for bread and burned the wood-work of their own houses for fuel. The Committee therefore **EARNESTLY APPEALS** to the charity of the British public.

Subscriptions may be forwarded to the members of the Committee or through their Bankers.



(SUMS ALREADY ACKNOWLEDGED, to Dec. 31, 1874.)

		Brought forward : LS. 3007.12.11	
Mr. G. Crawshaw.....	L. 500	Mr. Arthur Pease, Dar-	
Mrs. Crawshaw.....	» 100	lington.....	» 100
Mr. J. Muir, Edinburgh	» 100	Collected at Annan, by	
» C. W. B. Fernie. .	» 50	Rev. G. Gardiner. .	» 2. 6. 6
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Carried forward : LS. 4,203. 5. 2

Brought forward : LS. 4,203. 5. 2		Brought forward : LS. 4,599.17. 5	
An Ottoman..... »	9. 0. 2	On account of sums sent	
Mr. A. A. Gargiulo..... »	4.10. 1	by Rev.G.Gardiner,	
E. C. (2nd subscription) »	2.14. 6	Westerhill, Annan. »	2. 5
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guerdan and Co... »	20	Two Sisters..... »	2
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lington..... »	100	Mr. R. Rich ..... »	2

Carried forward : LS. 4,599.17. 5

Total : LS. 5,488.10. 5

## POSTSCRIPT.

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Pera, Feb. 4

Circumstances having delayed the publication of this pamphlet longer than was intended, we take the opportunity of mentioning that the Central Committee's fund had up to the close of January been augmented to the sum of L. 7,500 by various subscriptions, including one of L. 50 from the Earl of Derby, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. The necessity of supplying immediate relief to the starving people in the distressed districts had, however, reduced the balance in hand to a very small sum. The following extracts will explain the general state of affairs up to the present date.

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The *Levant Herald* of Jan. 25 says :—

“The people of Edinburgh have shown a most disinterested generosity in their pecuniary aid to the distant sufferers from the famine in Asia Minor, the aggregate of their subscriptions to the Relief Fund having on Saturday last amounted to L. 3,370,—an almost unparalleled sum for a single city, having no commercial or other direct interest in the afflicted districts, to give under the cir-



cumstances—and we now learn by a letter from Sir Philip Francis, her Majesty's Consul-general and Judge, which we publish to-day, that this sum has been further supplemented by an anonymous subscription, contributed in Edinburgh, of L. 500.

SIR,—I have great pleasure in informing you that I have received a telegram this morning as follows :—"Five hundred pounds anonymous donation to the famine fund received here. John Muir, Murchiston Avenue, Edinburgh."

This gift is very opportune ; for the drain on our funds is heavy and our balance is becoming small, just as, it would seem, our need is growing greater. I need not remind you that Mr. John Muir is the gentleman who began in the first year of the famine to send me from himself and his friends large gifts of money, and who ever since has continued his liberality towards the starving people of Asia Minor.

We have often observed that generosity is contagious, and the committee trust that the anonymous friend who now sends us L. 500—as a new start in subscriptions—will infect a larger number of others.—I am, etc.,

P. FRANCIS.

H.B.M. Consulate-General, Constantinople, Jan. 23.

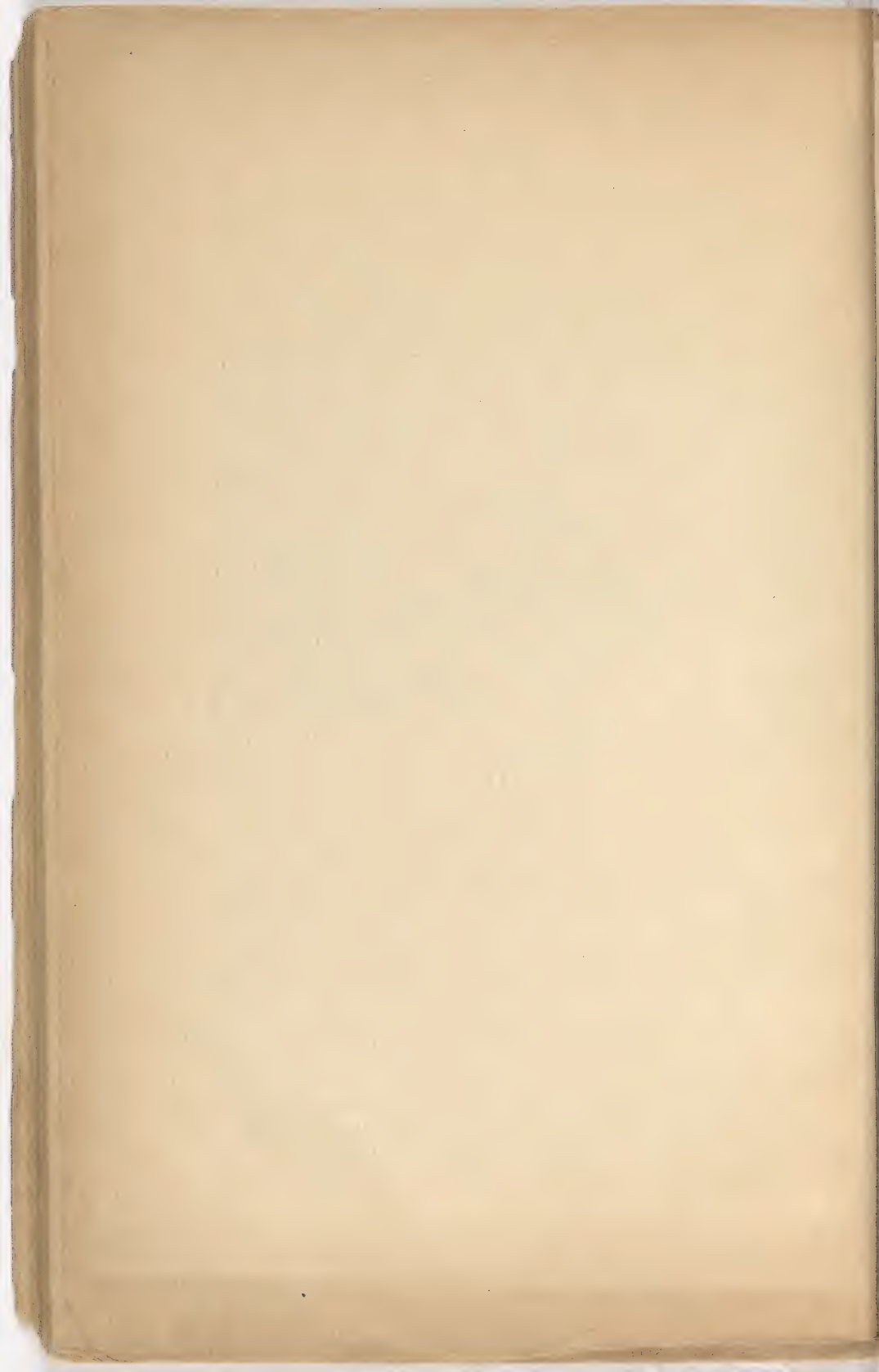
— — —  
[From the *Levant Herald* of Jan. 29.]

A fearful tale is told in the report of the Secretary to the Central Committee of Relief for the Famine in Asia Minor, which was published in our columns yesterday. On the one hand, it appears that the funds of the Committee are well nigh exhausted ; on the other, that the agents of the fund are almost committed to continue support to the inhabitants of some forty towns and villages. The object which the Committee sought to attain, was to preserve life by immediate relief, and until the Governmental machinery was in working order. This machinery must naturally be more tardy in its action by reason of the statistics to be obtained, the time required for the carriage of large quantities of food over the camel tracks of the

interior, and the unavoidable delays of provincial authorities, How thoroughly the agents of the Central Committee have done their work will be seen and appreciated. We are now in expectation that every post will bring us news of the results obtained by the Stamboul Turkish Commission.

Ample funds have been provided to the Commission, ample time has been given for the collection of the most minute details, and Omer Lutfi Bey's return will have completed what links of advice were missing. We are confident, therefore, that no longer shall we hear of "six persons having died of starvation within a few days, and very many living on *grape seeds*." It cannot be that the facts repeated in every letter from Kaiserieh (Cæsarea), from Talas, and from Yozgat, are unknown to the Government Commission. It is too horrible to imagine that the provincial authorities hide anything of the misery that has come over so large a part of the Sultan's possessions. Should, unfortunately, such be the case, then another year's famine will occur, pestilence will follow, the Sultan's munificence will be as nothing, and the Grand Vizier's energy will be thrown away.

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# STATISTICS OF THE RAVAGES OF THE FAMINE

## IN THE PROVINCES OF ANGORA AND OF THE RELIEF OFFERED BY THE COMMITTEE.

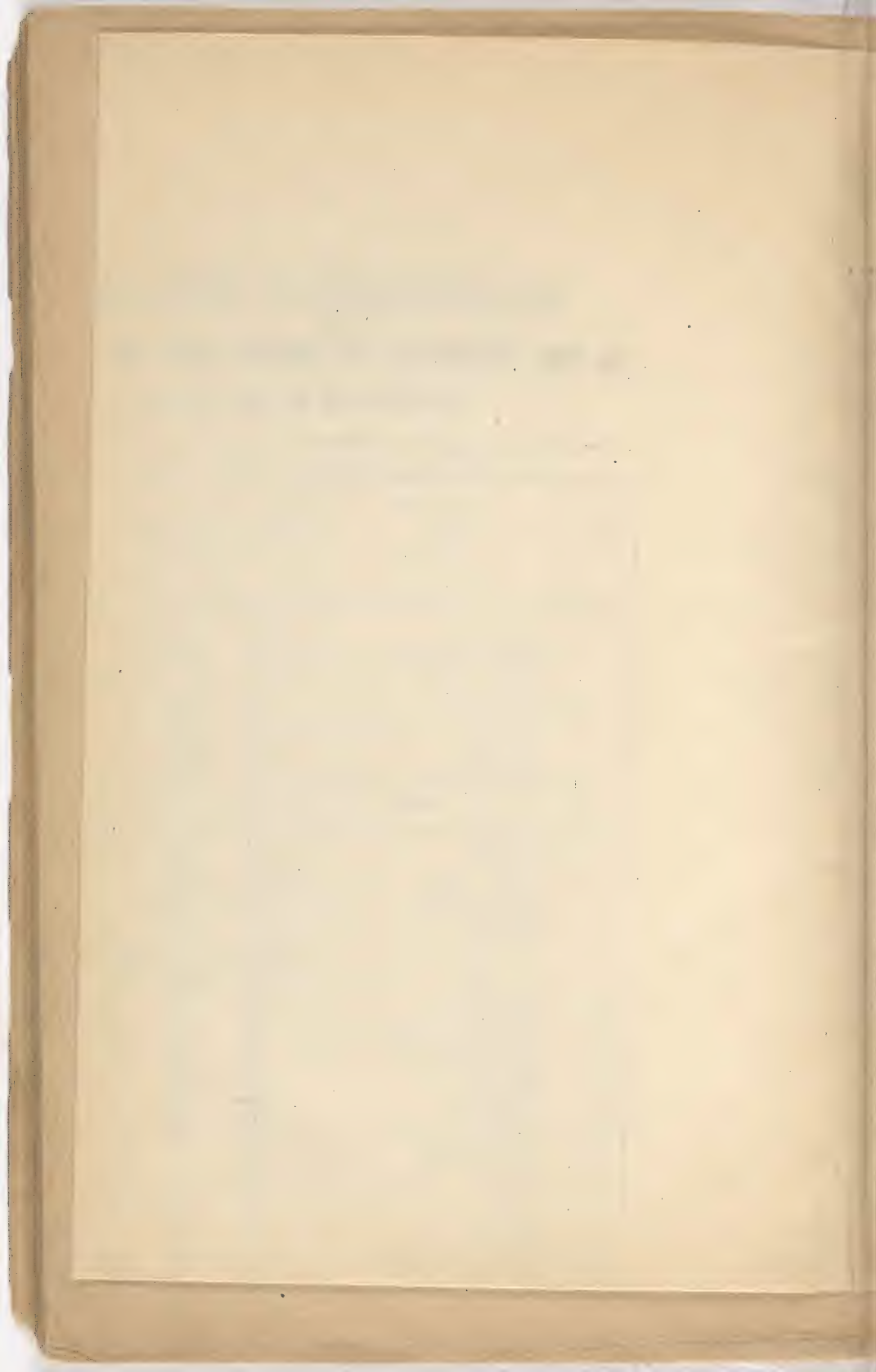
### Relief given to the villages belonging to the Caza of Keskin.

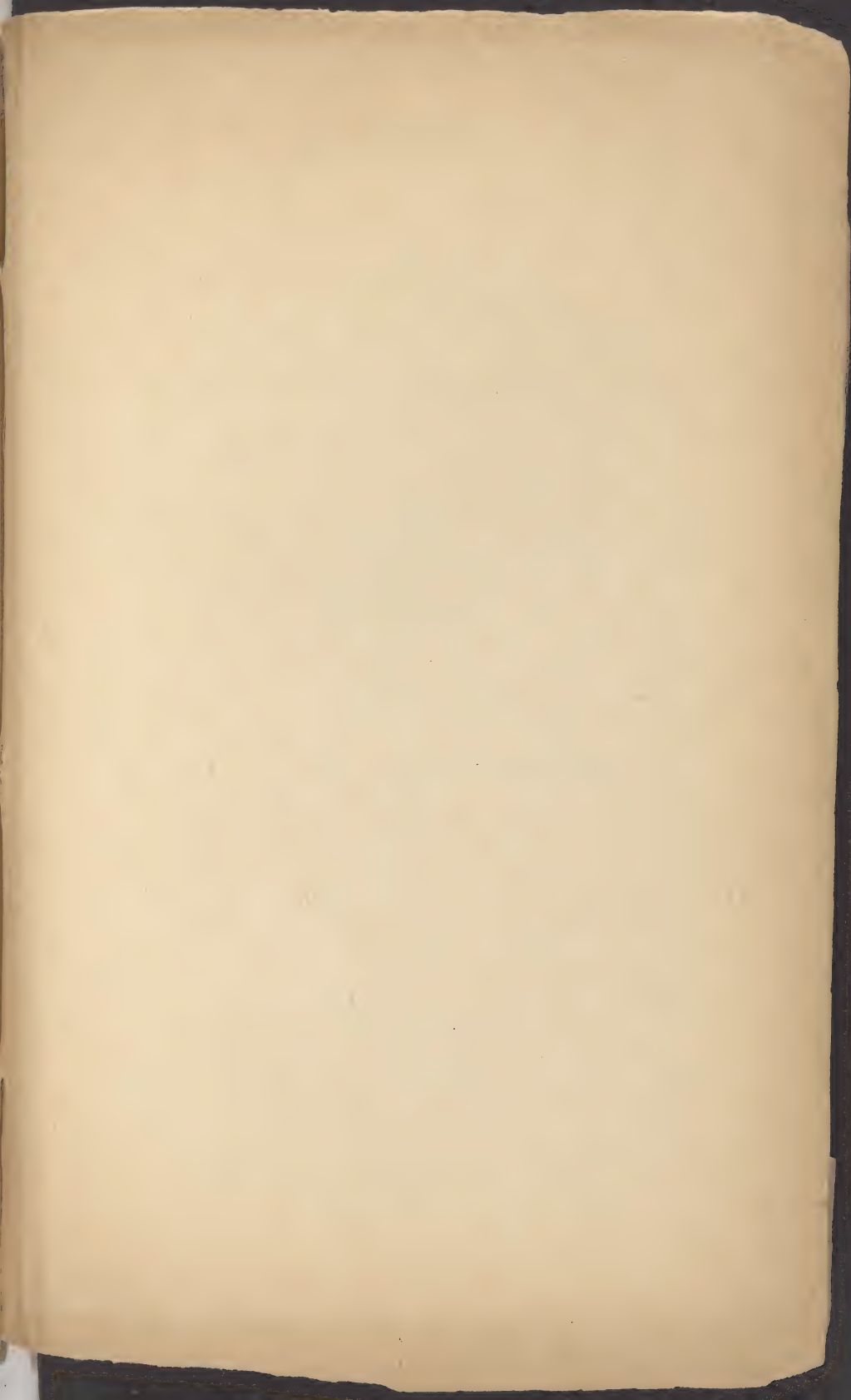
The following suggestive statistics reach us at the eleventh hour and we add them to our appendix without comment.

NUMBER	NAMES of the VILLAGES	POPULATION in 1873	POPULATION in 1875	DEAD	DISPERSED	PAIRS OF OXEN in 1873	PAIRS OF OXEN in 1875	SHEEP in 1873	SHEEP in 1875	NUMBER of men who received wheat	OKES of wheat	OKES OF BISCUIT
1	Yaghshihan . . . . .	1,350	780	400	170	150	32	5,000	600	400	4,000	70
2	Hassan-dedé . . . . .	420	230	130	60	70	5	6,000	0	120	1,200	27
3	Aghaly . . . . .	1,100	540	400	160	80	4	6,000	0	200	2,000	20
4	Youva . . . . .	300	160	100	40	20	2	2,000	200	50	500	4
5	Choullou . . . . .	500	350	120	30	80	23	3,500	300	90	900	8
6	Pazarjik . . . . .	650	300	250	100	102	32	4,000	40	120	1,200	42
7	Mahmatly zir . . . . .	450	300	80	70	65	26	3,000	0	140	1,400	10
8	" bala . . . . .	250	150	60	40	50	10	1,000	0	50	500	5
9	Oukash . . . . .	80	50	20	10	18	2	800	50	34	340	4
10	Karajali . . . . .	800	400	300	100	75	15	3,000	0	200	2,000	17
11	Kyrik . . . . .	400	200	140	60	50	5	1,800	0	97	970	16
12	Mahmoudlou . . . . .	350	150	150	50	50	6	2,500	0	70	700	7
13	Haji-bali . . . . .	200	80	80	40	20	3	500	0	45	450	4
		6,850	3,690	2,230	930	830	165	39,100	1,190	1,616	16,160	234
14	Guechili . . . . .	800	390	350	60	80	25	2,000	20	200	2,000	20
15	Akja-kavak . . . . .	170	122	38	10	22	5	400	0	62	620	7
16	Essad-mouminli . . . . .	140	101	39	0	25	4	1,000	0	40	400	7
17	Kurkjuler . . . . .	85	51	34	0	10	1	400	0	30	300	5
18	Balishih . . . . .	385	197	130	58	60	10	500	0	120	1,200	16
19	Kazmaja . . . . .	320	219	60	41	60	18	1,000	0	80	800	20
20	Koulakjiz . . . . .	775	321	370	84	150	51	3,000	60	180	1,800	18
21	Kussedourak . . . . .	205	113	76	16	27	10	480	40	42	420	3
22	Karaly . . . . .	260	110	100	50	60	6	1,000	0	56	560	10
23	Ezedin . . . . .	330	207	73	50	70	7	3,500	60	80	800	12
24	Karkin . . . . .	151	83	48	20	30	4	2,000	0	50	500	5
25	Sor-savoush . . . . .	85	22	30	33	15	1	300	0	22	220	2
26	Biyik-aydin . . . . .	250	112	93	45	60	6	500	12	54	540	5
27	Besh-pichak . . . . .	278	94	170	14	37	9	1,000	0	48	480	6
28	Yakoub-Hassan . . . . .	117	61	35	21	45	0	1,000	0	31	310	3
29	Selamly . . . . .	220	98	68	54	40	5	700	50	50	500	9
30	Eflakli . . . . .	163	67	67	29	30	6	500	0	50	500	8
31	Bekir bey obassi . . . . .	300	97	133	70	40	4	2,500	60	50	500	7
32	Yeni-elli . . . . .	110	14	30	66	24	0	800	0	14	140	1
33	Maden ve Barak . . . . .	1,600	960	280	360	120	48	4,000	600	370	3,700	40
34	Karishdiran . . . . .	167	78	52	37	25	6	800	0	40	400	10
35	Yeni-koy . . . . .	115	39	51	25	14	4	500	0	20	200	5
36	Haydar-dede . . . . .	160	112	28	20	20	7	260	0	20	200	8
37	Yeniye . . . . .	69	54	15	0	17	7	300	20	20	200	15
38	Halefeli . . . . .	410	231	46	133	45	10	3,000	200	45	450	15
39	Dikmen . . . . .	275	194	25	56	15	3	2,000	400	28	285	15
40	Bey-obassi . . . . .	1,200	800	100	300	100	20	4,000	100	70	700	25
41	Baghshili . . . . .	550	316	134	50	100	13	3,200	200	106	1,060	12
42	Hodar . . . . .	360	308	42	10	35	8	1,500	300	41	410	20
		16,900	9,261	4,997	2,642	2,206	427	81,240	3,312	3,635	36,355	563

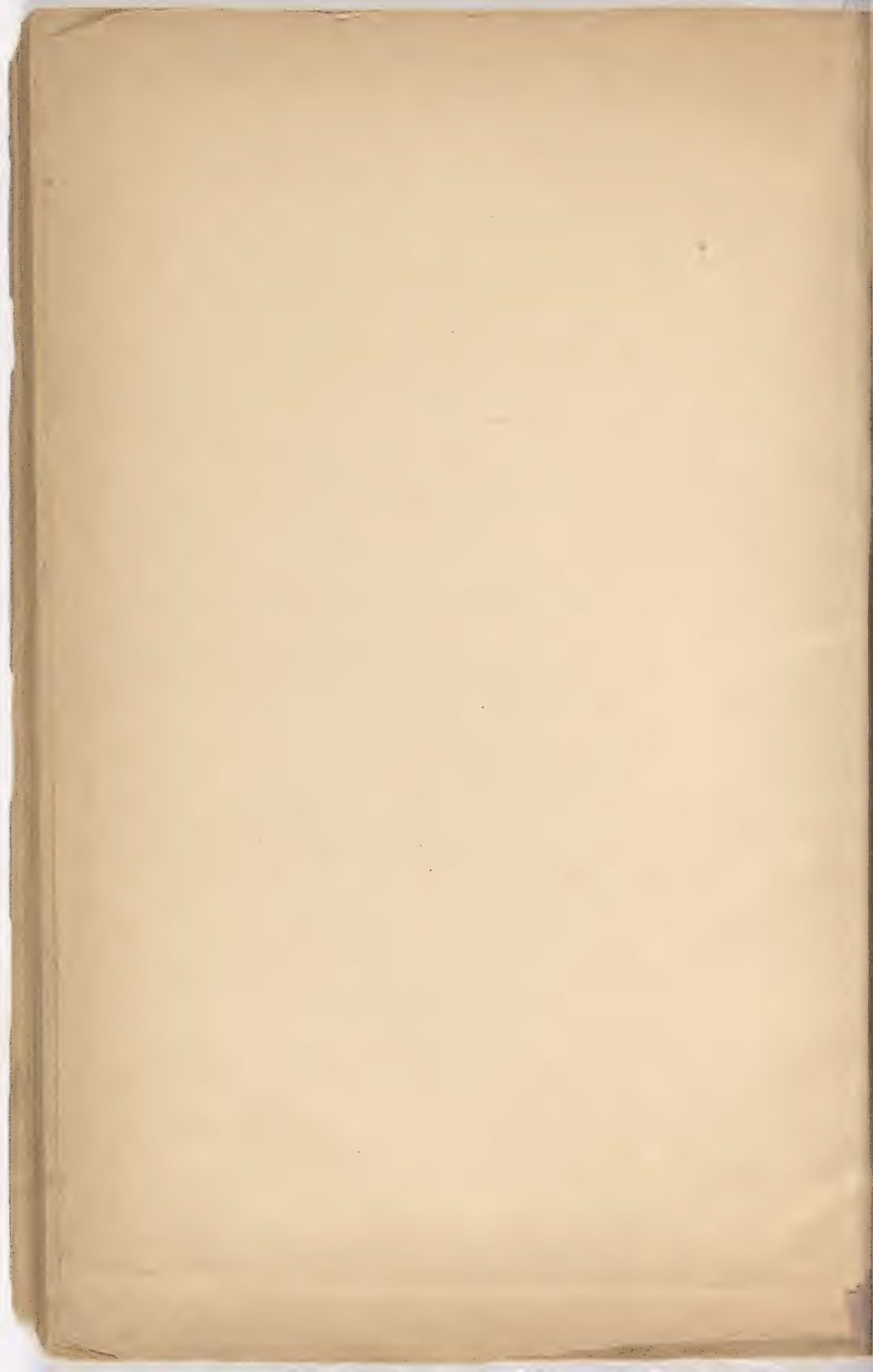
Population in 1873 of the 160/170 villages belonging to the Caza of Keskin . . . . .	52,000
Aproximative number of deaths . . . . .	20,000
	32,000
Do of population dispersed . . . . .	7,000
Existing in 1875 . . . . .	25,000

Angora, 29 Feb. 1875.









# THE LEVANT HERALD

(Established in 1856).

## Circulation.

The *Levant Herald* is one of the oldest newspapers in Constantinople, and has the widest circulation of any journal in the Levant,—its connection extending throughout the Turkish and Persian Empires, the Kingdom of Greece, the Principalities of Egypt, Roumania, and Servia, the Caucasus, and the southern provinces of Russia.

The *Levant Herald* in addition to its political, commercial, and general authority on Turkish and Eastern affairs, is the recognized organ of the money market and of the expanding financial interests of Constantinople. It has its own regular correspondents in London, Paris, Berlin, Marseilles, and Vienna; in St. Petersburg and Odessa; in Athens and Syra; at Belgrade, Bucharest, and Galatz; at Alexandria and Cairo; at Tabreez, Teheran, and Meshoud; at Trebizond, Erzeroum, Bagdad, Damascus, Aleppo, Beyrout, and Jerusalem; at Salonica, the Dardanelles, Smyrna, and other leading provincial towns in Turkey. These correspondents are chiefly men of established literary reputation, and all are the best authorities regarding the places and facts of which they write.

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AND HELD SINCE 1869 BY

**F. LOGOTHETTI**

PROPRIETOR ALSO OF THE WELL KNOWN HOTEL D'ORIENT NOW OCCUPIED

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W. SHERMAN.  
General, U. S. ARMY.

Pera, April 21, 1872.



